

DOUBLE ISSUE

TRUDEAU ON THE CHECHENS

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OCTOBER 11 2004

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'Neither side cares about the fans or the game. Only the money matters. Both sides should hang their heads in shame.' —Keith Galt, *Winnipeg Free Press*

Hockey hangout

Who, why, what? Welcome to the real world, NHL players ("Lushurrah," *Hockey*, Sept. 27). Refusing to agree to a salary arrangement that is based on revenue shows you are self-centred greedy jacks who only look out for No. 1.

B. K. Zahner, Edmonton

The players are always going to want more money, the owners are always going to want to pay less, but the real group that is to blame for the labour troubles in the first—for continuing to pay for such a low level of hockey compared to the great level that was enjoyed for years before expansion. There are too many players on too many teams wasting down the level of hockey.

Gary Copeland, Springfield, N.S.

We have created monsters in these hockey players. They can't even make the average person to relate to a career afford \$100 to see a game at the Air Canada Centre. The players and the owners need a salary check, while I need a hockey player's cheque.

Edin Meiri, Calgary, Ont.

The owners say that the players' slice of the revenue pie is too big. But who else has been agreed to pay the players as much as the first place? The players shouldn't have to justify the owner's poor money management and business acumen.

Jeff Mylen, New York City

I haven't paid much attention to the NHL. For years, The Canadian Hockey League is much more enjoyable, and the best seats in the house can be had for 12 bucks.

Paul Henderson, Seattle, Ont.

Am I really supposed to feel sorry for people who make an average of \$2.3 million a year? For babies? I guess there won't be new golf clubs and a new SUV for daddy this year.

T. R. Wilson, Edmonton

It will be ultimately good for hockey and Canadian hockey in general if this strike



Weeks out from the World American game. The NHL would then have to look at the fact that among Canadian franchise a better than two weeks out in the States.

Paul Lamotte, Edmonton

Professional hockey no longer celebrates excellence. This has resulted in fans—who must pay dearly for an inferior product—straying away to movies.

Geoff Branson, Richmond Hill, Ont.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and players' union boss Bob Goodenow are mirror images of each other. They could easily have each other's jobs and no one would notice the difference. Neither is about to blink first.

Hockey fights | Whose side are you on—the players or the owners?

After our Sept. 27 cover on the strike, the mail started rolling in. Most of the latter writers came out against the players—while a very small handful the state of hockey today. One fan in a letter of Toronto, who wrote, "Given the low quality of the game over the past few years, these millionaires have no right to strike. It just doesn't matter to me."

As long as these two are at the helm of their respective organizations, nothing will get resolved.

Jim Robertson, Calgary

We all are to blame—the players for asking for over-inflated salaries, the owners for actually giving it to them, and we, the fans, for actually paying the astronomically high prices for tickets. In the end, I think it's my kids who will be hurt the most—they lose watching the games on Saturday night.

Jerry Rees, Seattle

Would you guys lighten up already? The Canadian media spent the entire Olympics lamenting the lack of Canadian glory. Then Canada triumphed in world hockey championships, but rather than pausing to celebrate, your cover skipped the fan mail and proceeded directly to lamenting the lack of NHL hockey this season. Why are you so determined to put forth such a negative spin on everything?

Adam Greth, Ottawa

Unity unfair

Corydon Carter has the audacity to say that "after 9/11, the U.S. got softer" (*The Maclean's Interview*, Sept. 26). His admission that he hasn't voted in Canadian elections, but that if he had, he would have voted Liberal is more than silly, it's downright stupid.

Larry Bennett, Surrey B.C.

Health-care oversights

As a nursing student and future Canadian nurse, I applauded Paul Martin's health care initiatives ("The fish are cooking," *Politics*, Sept. 27). However, reforming health care will take much more than just throwing money at the problem. Although a steady increase in funding is needed and expected as the baby boomers age, there is also the much greater issue of medical staff shortages. If there is a shortage now, then what crisis will the future hold? Major policy changes in Canada need to include forcing some physicians to take on many of the responsibilities of family doctors, increasing the enrollment of medical staff in universities and looking toward countries in western Europe that have achieved better results in their health care systems than Canada. How will your writing, too good to throw, Mr. Martin, if there are no people to staff the procedures?

Kelley Majumdar, Victoria

CBC radio Two

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UPFRONT

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World | The candidates debate as Iraq turns bloody

As is often said about electoral debates, there was no knockout punch. In this case, probably just as well. As Republican President George W. Bush and Democrat Sen. John Kerry milled the dust for their first presidential debate, it was as if the world they sought to shape had decided to put on its own barbaric display, with more than enough blood to go around.

Earlier that day, in what was supposed to be a community celebration in a Baghdad suburb—U.S. troops were handing out candy to youngsters while inaugurating a new sewage system—two suicide bombers drove explosives-packed cars into the crowd, killing over 40 people, 34 of them children. A few hours later, nearly 4,000 U.S. and Iraqi troops searched an insurgent stronghold in nearby Samarra, killing more than 100 suspected militants. Add to that Israel's harsh push into a crowded Gaza refugee camp—180 Israeli tanks, nearly 40 Palestinian dead—and Pakistan, boasting it had killed 100 al-Qaeda in a recent border offensive,

in the first of three presidential debates, Kerry called Bush wrong on Iraq, while Bush branded Kerry a defeatist.

And the U.S. presidential debate on foreign policy took on increased urgency.

Kerry came out slugging. He accused the President of being wrong on Iraq, of rushing to war without international support or a plan to win the peace. He said Bush was unstable, too, and not in a good way. "It's one thing to be certain. But you can be certain and be wrong," Bush, in turn, accused Kerry of changing positions on Iraq and of being a defeatist—sending the wrong message to troops. America, he said, must "remain strong and resolute." About the only thing they agreed on was that the U.S. could not pull out prematurely. In the end, focus groups and quickie polls had Kerry winning the debate over the first-running Bush. But with four weeks to go until election day, there was ample time to argue who could best run a war fast spiralling out of control.

Quote of the week | "My hands are not in his pot." Federal Natural Resources Minister John Diefenderf responds to Ralph Klein's fears that Ottawa has designs on Alberta's wasteful oil revenues.

ScoreCard

U.S. REVENUE CRISIS
Assaulted from French, for new Europe laws in politically distressed Washington.
Bilateral trade deal = switch hit in asking state.
Trade agreement = slider = crawling through hospital.
Gated entry: Double the border = summit in two days.

U.S. CANTON DUBIOUS
Most heated business rethink ban on fresh fish in new dishes after apparently just learning what's made of Ontario had ordered use of maple syrup in fish, for health reasons. Is it healthy? Liberals' credibility in face of such policy, electoral message can absorb some cost.

U.S. CANADIAN BARRIERS
Global poll reveals just one per cent of Canadian women think they're better off. Is it any wonder they weigh too much? Note to men: when asked, "How do I look in the?" do not even think of quoting survey.

NBC
Great news if lack of succession plan for The Tonight Show was keeping you up late. Network says Conan O'Brien to replace Jay Leno as host—in 2005. Finally, some continuity in this crazy world.

Mansbridge on the Record



BLAIR, BONO AND BED

British politics these days have striking similarities to the Canadian scene

IN MONTREAL the other day, I wished Tony Blair spoke to the annual Labour Party conference in Brighton. The British prime minister has been under tremendous pressure of late over Iraq, and his party is badly split over the decision to go. George W. Bush is the war. So things in Bush "I'm glad I didn't" speech was not going to work. Instead, Blair apologized for being wrong about weapons of mass destruction—in effect, for misleading Britons about the central reason for a war that has resulted in the deaths, so far, of 66 British military personnel. While Blair can be a very, very good speaker, this time he looked like he was facing the the apologetic because the words didn't tumble out so comfortably. Blair used to the delight of his political staff, who fed the statements on blair.org on any political leader refuse to do. Blair: "I was misled to over the years my leaders almost always won't go there, even when everyone knows an apology is what's needed. Why? Simple: people seem to be the most common answer."

Watching the conference also allowed me to get updated on the continuing saga of Labour's leadership, which is as similar to what Canadians witnessed through the Jean Chrétien years. While Blair keeps hanging on to the job, his close aide, the chief of staff, the chief of staff of the executive (Chrétien), an aide (Chrétien) is selling a few more years of Gordon Brown's leadership. Blair has worked the top job for years, feels he's done it well, not so proudly, think it's time for a change. Blair Blair's not going anywhere and has set the stage for a third term.

“Why won't political leaders apologize, even when everyone knows it's required? It's a simple case of pride.”

Blair's just have to go for the steel and true Canadian method—run the cabinet and make decisions from the cabinet. It worked for John Diefenderfer, Chrétien and Paul Martin.

Gordon who also spoke at the conference in Rome, with a speech very similar to the one Blair heard last November in "Bretton." This guy should be running for something—he's good and he's serious in preparing for his career.

Something worth to Scotland gives me a different take on high of justice. Nationalists feel London's policy has been staying the islands of Scotland's North Sea oil for years with very little return. Now, the case is under to make in the British treasury from US\$850. The Scottish National Party is busy making up this, hoping the case election will be a replay of the 1970s when its popularity peaked, thanks in part to the very same issue.

And finally for something completely different—the people of Blair's right, the left. Then I was in a Halifax school the other night, watching the drink clerk tapping away at his computer, searching for my reservation. It was almost 11 p.m., and I had no more appointments. "Anything wrong?" I asked. "Oh no, everything's fine," came the unconvincing response. Naturally, I moved my room card key and looked forward to putting head to pillow. I slipped the card in and I opened the door. Great room. The bed was gone and in its place already. I'm sure they were not even supposed to see me. I was to see them. I hopped away and returned to the front desk. The terrified clerk mumbled about a "system failure" and almost seemed to see me on my hand. Incredibly, again two was occupied as well. I finally settled for a room with a pull-out sofa. No surprise, it was empty.

John Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent at CBC Television News and Anchor at The National. To comment, email: jmans@cbc.ca

FaceTime

Charmless With five gold medals—and four medals for missing them—wheelchair racer Chantal Petitclerc of Montreal was the athlete closest to carry the Canadian flag at the close of the Paralympic Games in Athens. Canada finished seventh in the medal count, with 22 medals—20 of them gold, including a first-day victory in men's wheelchair basketball.



Helping out Montreal's Marie-Claude of Montreal, a 50-year-old retired nurse's aide and, reportedly, devoted mother, is the second Canadian woman currently facing charges for assisted suicide. The case involves her only child, Charles Paré, 36, who was suffering from multiple sclerosis. A hospital worker and play writer, Paré was



Harold Lamm The facial jewelry was laid out in a box. But with the prohibition of drink, dominoes, right-angled triangles



held. A stellar Games, with two gold and four, they were married at the end of a real Greek. Finally, seven years from northern Ontario, on their way to the closing ceremonies, were killed when their school bus collided with a truck.



A play about being remembered by a child's daydream, to be performed by youth at Ottawa's National Arts Centre, Montreal, in small-town Quebec, P.C., a field began for catfishes. Evelyn Matthews, 34 (right), accused of assisting two young women in taking their own lives. The charge carries a maximum 14 years in prison.

And tonight, right-angled triangles—like those worn by Jennifer Tarpin. After—officials at soccer-mad Nigeria have reached their limit. They want to see an official in junior courts, saying they encourage homosexuality. And the president of Canada's soccer federation is an additional team get out of a real job.

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UPFRONT

rape and sex abuse trials against seven men—more than half the island's male population—has opened a window on a so-called paradise where girls were being abused or coerced into sex with older men in ways today's society no longer tolerates.

HEALTH

FIRE-FLU The World Health Organization is examining what is called a probable case of bird flu being transmitted from one human to another, in this case from uncle Tini to his nephew's mother in a remote village. Until now, it's been believed humans have only caught the deadly disease from infected poultry.

LYE EXPECTANCY Canadian men are dodging the gap: a boy born in 2002 can expect to live 77.3 years, up slightly from the previous year and an increase of 3.8 years since 1975. The life expectancy for women remained unchanged at 82.1 years.

WICK Drug giant Merck & Co. halted sales of its popular arthritis medication Vioxx after new studies suggested it was linked to an increase in heart attacks and strokes. The blockbuster drug—developed in Montreal, it's used by about two million people worldwide—has been on the market five

years and was once touted as being able to prevent some cancers.

CANADA



HISTORY Thirty-year-old cabinet documents released under freedom of information rules suggest the Trudeau government considered cancelling the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal because of growing concern over racism. It was not clear from the minutes whether Ottawa was bluffing. But its concerns forced the Quebec government of the day to guarantee nearly \$800 million in Olympic debt, which it is still paying off.

STUN GUNS Police need better training in the use of Taser stun guns as well as newer, less potent models, B.C.'s police complaints commissioner said in a report, following four men's gun-related deaths in the province. Gattuso's concern is about to embark on a similar investigation.

CONVICTION After two previous trials that resulted in hung juries, RCMP Const. Mike

Ferguson was convicted of manslaughter for shooting a drunken prisoner in Pincher Creek, Alta., in 1999. The issue: whether Ferguson acted in self-defence when he fired two shots, one hitting Duane Valley in the stomach, the other in the head. Ferguson is to be sentenced next month.

POURCES Prime Minister Paul Martin ended out a planned 10 per cent raise for MPs because he is trying to limit civil service increases to two per cent or less.

Newfoundland Health Minister Elizabeth Marshall quibbles, saying Premier Danny Williams was making too many mistakes in her portfolio.

Justice John Gurney, who heads the inquiry into the sponsorship scandal, lashed out at radiation expert Dr. Young for having "watered down" a 1996 report into mismanagement of advertising funds at Public Works. He is demanding to know why the firm did it.

GUILTY OBSESSION As a 22-year-old single mom two years ago, Clara Da Silva was a famous salsa dancer. But she sometimes left her two-year-old daughter Adriana home alone—the last teacher 13 hours in a well-lit apartment. Adriana died. Da Silva pleaded guilty to manslaughter and is to be sentenced in January.



THE KIDNAP GAME

Robbers ransomed the two Senegalese, Tawakel and Amin, and watched release hearings by their respective governments, was a bit go off in their heads to custody and, it was said, a million-dollar ransom. But judges agonized somewhere in a makeshift cell, British expatriate Mrs. Bigley, 62, pleaded for her life on Arab TV. In one 24-hour period, 15 foreign hearings were refused by embassies in Tripoli. Ten others were then accepted.



Mery Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



NEEDED: NEW CUSTOMERS

We will be at the mercy of the U.S. until we find other buyers for our softwood lumber

ENOUGH ALREADY. The U.S. has lost so many scalpers over softwood lumber that Canadians could understandably conclude trade pacts only work when our giant neighbour agrees with a decision. Worse, this dispute is becoming a blatant example of the U.S. propensity to expose its way of doing business on vulnerable trading partners.

Beneath the legalese, the dilemma is simple. The Americans are now confronting an "extraordinary challenge" to a decisive NAFTA decision in late August that flatly ordered them to declare our softwood export duties disruptive to their industry. But the U.S. keeps asking import duties on our shipments, so softwood lobby keeps exerting pressure—and this endless instant replay on looping on.

The dispute's roots lie tangled in our mutual past. New Brunswick and Maine were squabbling about softwood in the 1870s. It has persisted through the generations, including two recent agreements to cancel or tax our exports. When the last pact expired in 2001, the U.S. softwood lobby complained vociferously that our provincial and federal governments subsidize lumber firms—and those firms export their products at prices below fair value. As a result, the U.S. imposed softwood duties of 27 per cent, collectively US\$2.8 billion to date.

Canada's fightback: It launched three roughly parallel challenges both at the World Trade Organization and NAFTA, arguing against the U.S. countervailing and anti-dumping duties—and the "over issue" declaration on our exports have damaged their firms. Although it is a hard for

even experts to keep track of the legal saga, mostly we keep winning. In mid-August, for one, the WTO rejected the way it views the U.S. calculated its anti-dumping duties in order to reap a higher take.

There are no winners in trade disputes. Every country pushes the envelope. But the softwood quarrel raises a disturbing question: Is it the U.S. way, or the highway? Most American softwood is cut from private lands. Most Canadian softwood is stripped from public lands by lumber firms that pay market rates for long-term contracts (and they must replace each tree).

It's not easy. It's mostly deferred. But, even if the Americans lose a lot "extraordinary challenge," no one should assume they will return the money any time soon. Meanwhile, American lumber firms have two reasons to keep squabbling. It leads to duties that hurt their competitors and, under another U.S. law that trade panels have also denounced, those firms could eventually pocket the duties themselves.

Current Canada-U.S. talks on softwood will go nowhere until after the November election. "My hope is that a democratic industrial state will live up to its legal obligations," says Toronto trade lawyer Lawrence Herman. He sighs. "But a modern engine is hard to keep in line when it does not want to follow the rules of adverse reality. We have to keep up the pressure."

There is a lesson here. About 80 per cent of our softwood exports go to the U.S. In contrast, only 30 per cent of our wheat heads south. When Algeria purchases wheat last year—and they take one-third of our durum wheat—the World Trade Organization and new customers in Europe and Latin America. The moral: until we find new softwood buyers, we are at the mercy of an arrogant consumer holding all the cards.

Mery Janigan is a political and policy writer. mery.janigan@shaw.ca

Passages

DELETED Françoise Rolland, 53, an eight-year veteran of the Quebec Superior Court, took over as chief justice on Oct. 1. He replaces Lyne Landry, 68, who resigned in August after being charged with driving while impaired, following an evening bridge game.

EXTENDED Paul Martin's government is extending the term of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, 65, one more year, until September 2003, to have an experienced hand at the constitutional office during this latest experiment in minority government. After five years, Clarkson's term was to expire on Oct. 1. After year-term will expire the longest-serving GC since Roland Michener, who served from 1967 to 1974.



MISCONDUCT A five-member panel of the Ontario Judicial Council upheld the censure plan of its women court workers that they were inappropriately French biased, smoked and forced to judge by Provincial Court Judge Kerry Evans, 54, often in his barn, Ont., chambers. The son of the former chief justice of Ontario's high court, Evans could be found from the bench for misconduct.

WORN Dean Park, 36, from Corner Brook, Nfld., didn't pick up a Loto 6/49 ticket on his way home from moon shining. So his wife, Judy, 37, went out and, in a happy accident, bought the only one that matched all six numbers in the \$177-million Canada-wide jackpot. The family breathalizer, the quiet her job as a waitress in a Chinese restaurant and the couple has gone house hunting.

DIED Acclaimed New York portraitist Rick and Aronson, who turned fashion photography into an art form and captured celebrities in starkly revealing black and white, died on Texas hospital of a brain hemorrhage. He was 81 and an assignment for The New Yorker.



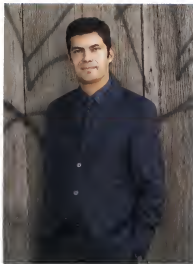
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KNOW HOW



Politics | MARIO DUMONT, LEADER OF QUEBEC'S ADQ PARTY

'WHAT WE SAY HAS AN ECHO IN THE WEST'

JUST TWO YEARS AGO, Mario Dumont was the golden boy of Canadian politics. The fiery, well-timed conservative *Action Démocratique du Québec* was rising high in the polls, and the young and dashing Dumont made a strong impression in English Canada with his promise not to support another referendum on secession. Then the wheels fell off the ADQ's campaign for provincial government and Dumont fell off the national radar. Now he's back making headlines after his party adopted an "autonomist" platform at its recent convention, promising to win more power for Quebec, whether Canada likes it or not. What changed?

So you want to become the Ralph Nader of Quebec politics?

To divide the vote, you mean? No! We want to conquer the vote.

Why, then, would you come up with a new constitutional proposal? Voters aren't exactly clamoring for one.

Constitutional politics is not a fantasy area, that's for sure. But to become the government, we must have a disposition. We also need a label. People see us as in-between: less nationalist than the PQ, less federalist than the Liberals. Now they know where we stand—we're Quebec autonomists.

Describe what that means.

First, we don't advocate a rupture with Canada. Those who've already had a party that we're not satisfied with the Canada of 1982. We want more control for Quebec—and for other provinces that want it.

What makes you think English Canada would be prepared to listen?

We're not confrontational. It's not a take-it-or-leave-it proposal. And the safest way to avoid another episode of referendums would be to elect a government that would make the nationalists feel confident Quebec is moving ahead inside Canada. We also know there are people elsewhere in Canada who self-identify as "Canadians not a monolithic country. What we say has an echo in the Conservative party and in the West.

Two years ago you were posing in front of the Maple Leaf, wearing a different coat.

What I said then no longer holds. I said we don't want another referendum. It also said the old strategy of Quebec being a major participant in Canada was over. I said we'd be active in policy debates. That still holds.

How have conditions changed since then?

The Parti Québécois was defeated, that's a major change. Old-fashioned separatism has little appeal for younger voters. And there's a minority government in Ottawa. The big question is whether Paul Martin is really more respectful of the provinces than Mr. Chrétien was. We've also learned some things. When we were ahead in the polls, we came under heavy fire, and we neglected to respond. That was a mistake. We'll be much tougher in the future. —BENJAMIN AUBIN

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CANADA'S TOP

100

EMPLOYERS

plus

THE TOP 100 bank (re)spouses to training opportunities to the comfort of the workplace, we rank the 10 leading employers in eight categories, p. 25

PINK ENVY Commuting by company helicopter? You could get into your RSP on your 50th anniversary? We will, p. 24

TOP 100 USR The poll listing of Canada's best places to work, organized by sector. Is your employer on it? p. 32

No. 1

VANCITY CONFIDENTIAL

What makes this Vancouver credit union so special? It's been doing for years what others only now recognize as workplace trends. It gives employees autonomy. It gives them good pay and smart perks. It gives them fun. And it gives them a clear conscience. BY KATHERINE MACKLEM

A MEETING IN JANUARY of VanCity's inner circle of top managers became unusually heated. Ten executives were debating whether to support a branch in Vancouver's poverty-stricken Downtown Eastside—a move that was sure to lose money. “Should we really be doing this?” one VP asked. A small alarm bank, which had relied heavily on provincial handouts, was about to shut down. Neighbourhood services had approached VanCity to help them set up a new community-run operation, Pigeon Park Savings. The executives knew the existing bank has consistently operated in the red. They knew a big part of their jobs was to protect VanCity investments. They also knew that without the new branch, the local residents

would be at the mercy of cheque-cashing storefronts, which charge exorbitant fees to cash even government cheques.

Karen Hoffman, who leads the credit union's wealth management division and who attended the meeting, says such decisions were much easier at her previous employer, one of the big banks, because there, every expense measured against its impact on shareholder value. At Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, the effect of initiatives on the community also important in making money. In some cases, more important. Was Pigeon Park one of those?

Weighing social impact against financial benefits makes VanCity one of Canada's most progressive companies. It helps that it's

owned by a violent incident and other circumstances rather than distance thresholds (legally, it is a cooperative). Canada's largest credit union, with 41 branches in Vancouver, is the Lower Mainland and Victoria, VanCity, an organization that gives a premium on doing good—and makes one case for customers to do the same. Holders of some VanCity Visa cards can donate the points they accumulate to charity. For its part, VanCity gives \$1 million each year to a local non-profit chosen by residents. Last year, it donated \$8.2 million to community disasters, a whopping 17.5 per cent of earnings. By comparison, donations by Canada's largest banks, while much greater in dollar amount, averaged just one per cent of their earnings.

What does all this have to do with being a good place to work? A lot, it turns out. Candidates, surveys show, want to work for outstanding corporate citizens. And, importantly, VisaCity is committed to treating its 1,600 employees well. Its list of benefits and perks is extensive: three weeks of vacation in the first year, plus an option to trade unused benefits for more days off, low-

"What kept me is that the company seemed tiny. And that keeps me here. I go to movies with friends, and when the ads come up, I'm like, 'We made the website for that company!'" — Nathan Pustok, application-development manager, [Jolt Media](#)



student loans, mortgages and credit lines; tuition subsidies; transit subsidies for Vancouver's light rail transit system. The head office, which straddles a SkyTrain station, has meditation and lactation rooms, an employee-run library and subsidized parking for those who carpool. The company pays the full cost of a flexible benefits plan. It's another contribution, making it Maclean's choice for Canada's best employer.

WardCitymands out, says Richard Yonka, author of the book *Canada's Top 100 Employers*, in the short number of ways, big and small, it owes to employees. At the turn of the last century, Henry Ford said he would pay his employees well enough so they could afford the Model T. Yonka points out: "The new century equivalent

Not surprisingly, Canadians are clamoring

ing to work at VertiCity. In 2003, the company received 12,000 applications—one of the highest per capita rates in Canada.

THE CULTURE

At 5 p.m., when ViewCity's brunch in Kilauea flows, the shoes come off, the volume on the TV goes up, the buzzer gets louder and the band wad of hunking rub and cheques begins. Teller Andrus-Melua doesn't mindly repeat something a manager or a moment earlier blared a colleague. "She's just having a [loud] moment." This group is young, one gets it, say they're like family. They party together, the staff bulletin board is full of wedding and baby photos. And they're *really* cheerful. Maybe it's a Waco conundrum.

The group hug extends to the corporate level, too. VanCity has a range of employee events, including "invention nights," family

9 to 5 at **WanCity Kitchens** (clockwise from top left: quilter's time, customer treats top-up, cooking not for soon, CEO Mowat's jumping of cat).

sexies and winter sharing, as sexual gifts and themed costume parties (last year, the CEO came dressed as Alice Cooper), and his softball, dragon boat and kayak teams.

The big deal is small, says Mike Harris, a tall, friendly 17-year-old whose job is to greet and direct customers as they enter the boards. "Vest City lets us make decisions on our own," he says. After reversing a customer's charge without consulting a higher-up, Dennis says another benefit. Last year, Harris's was 16 per cent of his salary, and gave him enough for half the down payment on his first home.

THE COMPENSATION

Although VarCity, with \$9 billion in assets, is a money bank connected to the Ben Fife's



hundreds of billions, it pays its people on, par with its larger rivals, support staff are paid slightly better than industry average. Bonuses are calculated based on VeriCity's profits and the performance of the worker's branch or department. Her managers the truth is different, and puts VeriCity at the leading edge of new employment practices: Managers' bonuses are tied not just to business performance but to employee engagement, as tracked by surveys. The happier the staff, the better the boss is said.

Measuring employee engagement is becoming common, says Christopher Hatch, a principal with human resources consultants Towers Perrin, but it's rare to link a manager's pay to it. Making that connection is "a very large step," Hatch says. "You have to have the right culture to make that final leap of linking engagement to pay." Engagement scores, Hatch adds, are more than just

TOP 10 FOR FINANCIAL BENEFITS



The commuting was hell. Montreal native David Lemoine spent at least three hours a day driving to and from his job at a planning firm. Planning to start a family, his wife decided to move. "I didn't want to live in a

Just a year earlier in March 2003 from 15,000 worldwide, a paper company that employs 15,000 worldwide, including 1,200 in Kingsley Hall, 50 minutes drive from Montreal. The job, as a financial analyst, was exciting enough. Importantly, by moving to this picturesque Montreal Jewish community, Linnex escaped his drive to two remedies. And the generous financial benefits didn't hurt. After the 2003 to \$2,500 toward a new home, plus rebates on property taxes. The couple moved another house last November. It was a small lake in the backyard, complete with beavers. **Reindeer sightings are not uncommon.**

Maternity tax-up of 50% per cent of salary for 25 weeks and 30% for 13 weeks, in April

2. Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Vancouver
3. KPMG LLP, Toronto
4. IBM Canada Ltd., Markham, Ont.
5. Ernst & Young LLP, Toronto
6. Amex Canada Inc., Mississauga, Ont.
7. Pricer & Samuels Inc., Toronto
8. Pfizer Canada Inc., Montreal
9. Shell Canada Ltd., Calgary
10. Montreal Children's Hosp., Montreal

Notes: Exaggerates on range of financial benefits available for adoption and foster care placements.

Annual pension and 401(k) contributions are averaging 8.25% of salary, Lemaire, 34, who owns himself at Cascades for "the next 30 to 35 years," intends to clean up. ■■■■ JORDAN

TOP 10 PHYSICAL WORKPLACES



Hot the place you'd expect to find a top notch space to work. An open pit and an underground mine complex.

1. Baskin International Inc., Windsor
2. Inuit Canada Ltd., Edmonton
3. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc., Cambridge, Ont.
4. Algorithmics Inc., Toronto
5. IBM Canada Ltd., Markham, Ont.
6. 3M Micro Electronics Inc., Mississauga

7. General Dynamics Corp. & Ltd., Ottawa
8. Solvent Extracts Co., Calgary
9. 3M Corp., Edmonton
10. Zenon Environmental Inc., Calgary, Ont.

Selection: Savory thickies, spaghetti, chicken balls, egg rolls, chow mein, fried rice, potatoes with gravy, vegetable chicken's ribs, pizzas, macaroni and cheese, lettuce, chili, assorted burgers. Dessert: The menu is often augmented with such local fare as cornbread and smuck-on. All you can eat, and all free. **JOHN MACDONALD**

a measure of staff satisfaction. They indicate whether employees feel they can use their discretion or whether they'd recommend the company to friends as a good place to work. Studies show that higher engagement levels result in higher retention levels and a more productive workforce, Hatch says. "That's why it's so critical."

THE CEO

Here, as he's known to everyone here, goes the engagement thing. "We're a service business," says Dave Mowat, ViaCity's CEO. "We can have the best products in the world, but if everyone on the front line was dead pan, we wouldn't sell or keep our business. Making sure those people are engaged is supercritical to us."

MOMAS WANTED

"I had two MTOs [My Toronto Office] and also a second wife. It's hard to be a single parent. They were called to say how I was. I learned how my daughter—she's leaving, doesn't fit—she's leaving, right? So group and family. (Laughs) She's the only one."

Mowat, 49, who led ViaCity's venture finance department before becoming CEO in March 2006, is in a conference room at the downtown Hyatt this morning, alongside 40 mid-level managers. Wearing a suit jacket but no tie, he's drinking stale hotel coffee and working the room like a politician at a backyard barbecue, getting many by name. Majah today is to get the managers outside with a rebranding initiative that calls for making the branches more funky, run like retail stores, and, most importantly, to get them to adopt a 45-page proposal that spells out a vision for ViaCity.

The document is full of touching anecdotes about happy customers, scribbled from employee submissions. There's one about a long-term client who, at 81, got a loan from ViaCity so she could fly to Hawaii and meet the man she'd promised to marry 56 years earlier. There are inspirational quotes and snappy one-liners. It is, as Mowat tells the crowd, "a little away from, roughly five to 10%," or "a little away from ViaCity, and is meant to give every worker a consistent picture of the company and its challenges. One of the main ones is reconciling big business banking institutions with community-minded credit unions."

TOP 10 FOR PROVIDING TIME OFF



This not-profit agency with 580 staffers operates in a field where time off is necessary. But that's not all it provides. Best perks: Four weeks of vacation in the first year (very rare); 56 paid personal days (pregnancy leave tops up to 70 per cent for 24 weeks, better still, new dads and adoptive parents get the same benefits). Employees can take up to three years off and still keep their jobs. Flex-time—work 30 hours in nine days and get the 10th off, for example. Need a longer break? Sure. All 36 requests for leaves of absence were granted last year (in addition to 33 pregnancy leaves). Renée Welsh spent the past year studying for her master's in social work. "In this field you need to take a step back every once in awhile because of the stress," says Welsh, who works in the CEO's human resources department. "Those of us who've taken a leave come back more committed than ever." Why give so much time off? "Because of

1. Brook Russell Canada Ltd., Toronto
2. Adco Inc., Inverness, Ont.
3. MIRA Credit's Bank, Ottawa
4. Canada's Women's Business Council, Toronto
5. BDO Wilson Diamonds Inc., Vancouver
6. KPMG LLP, Toronto
7. Shell Canada Ltd., Calgary
8. Norlite Energy Inc., Calgary
9. Aluma Systems Corp., Toronto
10. Alstom Ltd., Calgary

because, the turnover in this field is very high," says Terry Selby, the HR director, adding that the rate at CCAS has decreased substantially compared to national averages in recent years. "When I introduced the concept of encouraging leaves after starting here in 1986, I was almost thrown out of the room. But we've since done a major shift in educating our managers about employee retention." (JENN M/10)

TOP 10 FOR STAFF TRAINING



The accounting firm, with 4,144 employees, provides auditing, tax and financial advice to businesses. Its Swiss parent employs nearly 180,000 in 146 countries. Best perks: Three weeks of vacation after one year on the job, plus seven paid personal days a year. A fitness subsidy averaging \$700 a year. Massage days. Parties to celebrate the end of tax season. New recruits get laptops and running shoes. On Feb. 10 the "fit" with the company. And a hefty \$20,000 for workers seeking to adopt a child, to offset legal, travel and other expenses. The director: Education is a priority for KPMG, which spent more than \$3,500 on training per employee last year. Workers can get tuition subsidies of up to \$3,500 annually, plus bonuses of up to \$3,000 for completing courses. They're also encouraged to take assignments at one of the many foreign offices. An employee's story: Margaret Stone, 25, joined KPMG in January 2007, minding the phones at the HR call centre. Later that year, she

1. Arthur Systems Canada Inc., Ottawa
2. Macdonell, Dettlacher and Associates Ltd., Richmond, B.C.
3. Street & Young LLP, Toronto
4. Bank of Montreal, Toronto

including a 10% bonus

5. Bellco Inc., Hamilton
6. Telus Communications, Calgary
7. Vancouver City Housing Trust, Vancouver
8. Shell Canada Ltd., Calgary
9. Rogers Communications Inc., Toronto

begin studying for an MBA, which she completed in July. Now manager of the call centre, Stone says she couldn't have finished her degree without the tuition subsidy. "The firm saw potential in me." The employer's story: Mary Fitzgerald, national HR director, says training is a matter of corporate survival. "We attract smart people who want to upgrade. If we don't give that to them, they'll go somewhere else." S.B.

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concerns. "One day we try to act big, the next day we try to act small. We need to recognize the contradictions," Mowat says. Ultimately, the initiative has a blunt purpose: to grow VanCity's client base. Today, one in eight Vancouverites does business with VanCity. By 2008, Mowat wants it to be one in six.

Lates, over coffee, Mowat seems content at the suggestion that the story is a marketing exercise. "We would be happy to call it that," he says. But, yes, he admits this is "the marketing piece of VanCity," designed to convert from late employees that they played roles in the company's future plans—so they, rather than the marketing department, are selling the VanCity message.

That message isn't aimed only at customers but at potential employers, Mowat

TOP 10 FOR YOUNG BUCKS

Rounded by former physiotherapist Roy Muzika, 36, and Greg Zischke, 25, both lifelong video-game freaks, the maker of computer and console games has 218 employees. Since 1995, it has sold nearly 50 million games, including the hugely popular *Asphalt's* *Asphalt* series and *Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic*.

Average employee age: 30. "Our entire workforce grew up in the video-game age," says Zischke, "so they understand the consumer." **Top recruiting challenge:** Only one per cent of employees are female. But that's changing, helped by more young women taking up gaming and enrolling in technical colleges.

Best perk: Free breakfast at the office, both hot and cold, 40-seat movie theatre that can be booked for family and friends, profit share, bonus system, free gym membership. **Special geek bonus:** Everyone gets to try all the new games being developed.

Special geek bonus II: The company rented an entire mall for the company of the King of the Ring. The return of the King, for staff

1. **Atlassian Inc., Victoria**
2. **MENT Canada Inc., Ottawa**
3. **VeriSign Inc., Mississauga**
4. **Boxcar Inc., Montreal Ltd., Calgary**
5. **Qualcomm International Inc., Vancouver**
6. **Alphabetical Inc., Toronto**
7. **East India Inc., Vancouver**
8. **First Canadian Title Co. Ltd., Oshawa, Ont.**
9. **Talco Corp., Quebec City**
10. **Westell Software Corp., Calgary**

100's average age of employees above 30 is 34.

and loved ones. "It was one of the coolest movies I'd ever been to," says Muzika, "because you're surrounded by your colleagues." **Secret weapon:** Location. "Vancouver is a very family-friendly place," says Zischke. "You can go to L.L. and live the best life, but many of our employees live at the age where they are buying houses and starting families." **People's football:** Table! Check. **BB**



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CHASING CURES

"The best approach would be to find out if it had been a job at the company they're at. I've only heard the extra \$10,000 because the chance of a scientific breakthrough is incredible here." —Joseph Proulx, President, medical research fund, March Frost

says. Having a reputation as an expanding organization may attract business, but it can also drive staff who in turn look for new clients. "People who are engaged at their jobs can make the decisions that are the critical part of getting you, the customer, committed to doing business with us," says Mowat.

THE INTANGIBLES

VanCity is acting on an important work place trend: the generation now entering the workforce is looking for more than a good paycheck, says Hatch of Towers Perrin. "You can almost call it a higher calling. They're saying, 'Tell me how you're helping the community, how you're helping the world, how I make a difference in this organization.' They don't want to be a cog."

It's not the big ticket perks like Caribbean vacations or subsidized fitness that make a company a good employer, says Anthony Meehan, publisher at MeehanCorp Canada Inc., which puts out the Top 100 book. Some of the most popular policies are also cheap. Once creating bus is named days off, which allows workers to take a day every other week if they put in an additional 30 minutes per day. "It's simple, inexpensive—

TOP 10 FOR SEASONED PROS

Number of employees: 2,158

Average employee age: 47

Average years of service: 23

Years the longest serving employee has worked there: 48

Workers with 25 or more years on the job: 3,190 (that's almost half! (No, this stat isn't a record.)

Why the loyalty? George Andros, who has been with the company in several departments since 1965, says it's all about two things: the family-like environment to make Christmas party for 30,000 staffers and their families held in a stadium is just one example, and the training opportunities.

"Unlike a lot of companies, the managers here listen to us and work out problems with us," says Andros, 45, assistant coordinator at the company's rec centre. "And they encourage us to take courses. I was computer illiterate and they gave me a chance to learn." What do all these old vets mean for the business? "These are the people who designed

the systems and had a role in how the equipment is laid out and how we interact with our customers," says Bruce Miller, Bellco's HR director who has been with the company for 33 years. "Often, when there is a customer problem, we send a couple of guys from the line because they can recognize it." JL

1. **Hamilton Steel, Hamilton**
2. **Sevenson International Ltd., North Vancouver**
3. **Trinity Forest, Cambridge, Ontario**
4. **Shel Canada Ltd., Calgary**
5. **General Dynamics Canada Ltd., Ottawa**
6. **Co-operative General Insurance Co. Ltd., Guelph, Ont.**
7. **Epcor Utilities Inc., Edmonton**
8. **Strickland, Regina**
9. **Sea-Quest Technologies, Authority, Montreal, N.B.**
10. **Monter George Inc., Calgary**

100's average employee age ranges from 42 to 47. 100's longest serving employee: 48 years.



PERK ENVY

Does your employer offer any of these? Suggestion: cut out and pin this list on a bulletin board in your HR office. We don't guarantee results.

- Monthly pub nights in "The Loft" with beer, razzies, free food and games
- High Rock Brewery income; that's right, you can own a share of the brewery
- Most sales targets and drive a free Mercedes for a year. Business Objects Corp.
- Put your university-bound kids on the running for one of 50 academic scholarships available each year. CIBC
- Operate as a kid. CIBC
- First on-the-job instruction in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, German and Arabic. Expert Development Canada, Ottawa
- Sleep on the job in one of three nap rooms furnished with comfortable beds



ON THE WEB To see other Top 100 lists and read more comments from people who work at the Top 100 Employers, visit www.cbc.ca/top100employers

HOW WE COMPILED IT

The Top 100 Employers list is compiled annually by Mediaworks Canada Inc., which publishes job-hunting periodicals, including *Canadian Employment Weekly*. For this year's list, Mediaworks mailed 60,000 of the fastest-growing Canadian employers (from an initial group of 12,000) to complete an interactive application process. More than 1,000 answered in its book, which profiles each of the 100 employers and which hits bookstores in mid-October. Mediaworks grades the organizations in eight areas, including the physical workplace, work and social atmosphere, and health, financial and family benefits.

The list is not a ranking. The reason? Simply put, a nurse wanting to work in a hospital won't be impressed by a mine, no matter how high its position. As well, employers on the list are best-at-class. However, for the first time since Mediaworks began publishing Mediaworks's list in 2001, we have selected one organization as the best place to work in the country, from a short list provided by Mediaworks. Mediaworks chose *Maclean's* credit union based on the breadth of its benefits and commitment to making employees content.

Canada's Top 100 Employers



MOVING UP FAST

"When I was working in the military, I read an article in *Maclean's* about Christine Schwaninger, who was then deputy chief of Hamilton Police. She went on to Calgary, becoming the first woman to hold a major police rank. In the military, there isn't a lot of female police role models. I thought, Hamilton is so progressive, so I applied. I want to be chief of police—I'm committed to this. It's totally achievable here, because you can determine your career path. That's why I'm now doing as a mentor for new police. It allows me to say if I really want to do this,"—Lt. Anne Smith, assistant chief and captain, Hamilton Police Services

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

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INDUSTRIAL AND RESOURCES

[illegible][illegible]

TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

[illegible][illegible]

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

[illegible]

PUBLIC SECTOR AND NON-PR

FRANCO Leathers Corp. Inc., Madison, N.J. (leather goods)	\$184	Free membership in women's shoe store customers' loyalty benefits
Kaufmann's, Inc./F.A.O. Schwarz in Philadelphia Center	\$190	Work in spontaneous, staff National P. Club efforts; update retail clothing sale
Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Ottawa (radio and television)	\$200	Encouraging listening projects, train research and use of audio, phonograph

[illegible]

Adapted from: *Journal of Management Education*, 2006, 30(1), 10-20. Copyright 2006 Sage Publications.

[illegible]

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Forget unity. The new New Europe is split over old ways of doing things, and it's the novice members who may well shake things up, says PAUL WELLS.

TO SOME IT seemed like an act of destiny. The European Union experienced its biggest expansion ever in May, adding 10 new countries to bring the total number to 25. The newcomers were a motley lot—smallish, poorer countries like Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Cyprus. Their average GDP per capita was only 40 per cent as great as the average wealth of the EU's 15 longstanding member states. Most were still recovering from half a century of huddling under the yoke of Communist oppression. “It is a noble venture, to bring into the European prosperity club the orphans of Stalin’s wretched Soviet empire,” one commentator wrote some months before the enlargement.

But if Europe’s new partner nations are supposed to be using like charity cases, Robert Smolen didn’t get the memo.

Smolen is the chairman of the European Union Affiliates Committee in Poland’s parliament. In his smugging way, business suit, carrying the shiny digital gadget he used to intercept phone calls and e-mails while he chaired in his Warsaw office, he didn’t look like anybody’s wretched orphan. And in soft-spoken but fervent tones, Smolen was soon arguing that it’s the founding members of the European Union—not the newcomers—who need to catch up with the times. “If a business in France doesn’t do better to locate here, who should handle them?” he asked with a chin wrinkle.

Nicolas Sarkozy, France’s finance minister and an early favourite in this country’s 2007 presidential election, has been complaining bitterly that the newly arrived member states charge business taxes so low that

France can’t compete. He has a point: France’s corporate tax rate is 34 per cent, Poland’s is 19 per cent. You can hardly pick up French newspaper these days without finding new diatribe about “laissez-faire”—facilities closing in the West and moving eastward to profit from cheap labour and low taxes.

“I’m bad,” Smolen said. “If they say we should raise our taxes, that’s an absurd poison. If they want to harmonise—so long as it means they cut their taxes—we won’t protest.”

Perhaps I should pause here to point out that Smolen is not some Thatcherite freak from Poland’s extreme right wing. The party he represents in the Sejm, Poland’s equivalent of our House of Commons, is the nominally centre-left Democratic Left Alliance. (Down the hall from Smolen I met a member of the main opposition party,

THE ORPHANS
of Stalin’s wretched
empire, POAs in hand,
are challenging old
Europe’s prosperity club

the conservative Civic Platform, who cheerfully told me: “We need a complex tax reform. It will make the French and Germans even angrier—because we will cut taxes even more.”)

For decades, one of the most persistent debates in the EU has pitted fans of the *laissez-faire*, the European welfare state model of generous social benefits and subsidised job security financed by high taxes, against advocates of a more entrepreneurial



May brought momentous change, with Poles celebrating their country and also others joining the European Union. “We came as young, hungry wolves that upset the harmony of the whole stable,” says one.



and risk-prone business culture in which taxes are kept low, social programs offer less protection, and employees are likely to leave workers because they are freer to find them.

The big-government model's greatest adherents were in France and Germany. They tended to dismiss advocates of limited government as "liberal"—a word whose European meaning is almost the opposite of its North American meaning—or, worse yet, "Anglo-Saxon," a blanket term of derision aimed at the Brits, the Americans and anyone else with an unseasonably thrifty on-profit.

For the longest time the social-democratic model reigned with little trouble. But lately it has come under severe challenge—and not just from the EU's poor but ambitious new eastern members. Thanks to changing demographics, sluggish economies and a highly competitive international environ-

ment, social-democratic Europe is facing criticism and reforms from within.

That's why it's a bit ironic to draw any geographic distinction between "Old Europe" and "New Europe," as Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. defense secretary, did in 2000 before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, which France and Germany opposed but Poland and the Czech Republic supported. For one thing, even in Warsaw, many supporters of the Iraq war are starting to doubt the wisdom of that choice.

For another, skeptics of Europe's economic model are hardly limited to the East. Sarkozy's suggestion that EU member states be penalized if they set taxes too low was roundly derided—even in France. "We are not isolated," Smolens said. "Countries like the Netherlands, the U.K., Italy—they are wrongly accused such tax harmonization."

Advocates of a more business-friendly, competitive Europe—the new New Europe, if you will—are everywhere. Consider:

■ In Germany, social-democratic Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has pushed through a set of economic reforms, called Agenda 2010. Schröder's minister of labor, Wolfgang Clement, says the reforms are designed to "lower subsidiary wage costs"—Germany's job-killing taxes on salaries—to "keep Germany competitive as a location for investment and at the same time reduce the depressingly high level of unemployment."

Successive waves of reform, designed to push back the age of retirement, implement our fees in hospitals and our benefits for the long-term unemployed, sparked a serious-long-term of Monday-night depression in our Germany. But the democ-

crats never really caught on to the country's more prosperous west and have begun to flounder in the east—suggesting this variant may be Schröder government's implementation and understand that, at any rate, Germany's center-right opposition parties would probably implement the same policies.

■ In Brussels, the incoming president of the European Commission, Portugal's José Manuel Barroso, is tracking the EU's economic branch with free-market liberals. The new trade commissioner will be Peter Mandelson, an architect of Tony Blair's "new labor" revolution in Great Britain. The tourism and customs EC goes to a woman from the low-tax nation of Latvia. Charlie McCreevy, the finance minister during Ireland's economic boom, will be in charge of the EU's immense internal market.

■ For the longest time, Europeans knew the belief that the EU was a bureaucratic



HOW THEY STACK UP

There are large differences between the 15 older members and the 18 countries that joined the European Union earlier this year.

	Old EU	New EU
Population (millions)	300	74
Life expectancy (years)		
Women	82	76
Men	76	70
GDP (\$trillions)	11,680	160
GDP per capita (\$)	35,800	4,500

SOURCE: EUROSTAT

strains on national sovereignty—was a belief held almost uniquely by economic conservatives, led by the editorialists at *Conservative's Daily Telegraph* in London. But not surprisingly, given the small government winds blowing across Europe, the new EU realigners got on the left.

In France, the No. 2 man in the Socialist party, former prime minister Laurent Fabius, has split the party into warring factions by announcing he will campaign for the No vote in a referendum on the new EU con-

stitution. Fabius says the constitution is *unrealistic*—small-government philosophy and makes it impossible for France to protect against job raids by its poorer neighbors.

In Britain, Tony Blair's hopes of winning his own referendum on the EU constitution were rattled last month when the Trades Union Congress refused to endorse the constitution. Thatcherian union boss Bob Crow echoed Fabius's argument, saying the new constitution would "centralize state power and the neo-liberal economics that have helped wreck industries in Britain."

In some ways, what's most striking about the debate over the new New Europe is that some of the most onerous critics of the old way have come from within. Shortly after Sarkozy and Fabius started complaining, from opposite ends of France's political spectrum, that France's "social model" was in risk, they were given a lesson lecture in the pages of *Le Monde* by this August and recently non-partisan newspaper's economics editor, Eric Le Boursier.

"If the 'French social model' continues as a consensus within our borders," Le Boursier wrote, "beyond them it meets with increasing criticism, even cynicism. 'Social' France is 10 per cent unemployment, especially among youth; a by now explosive inability to integrate immigrant populations; an obese and nearly unimportant state living off record tax rates. There is hardly anyone but the French, princely and none too lucid, who are a

model that could surpass other models of that."

In Warsaw, Piotr Nowosi-Konopka has been watching the hubbub on the west with keen curiosity and no small measure of amusement. Nowosi-Konopka spent most of the 1980s as an insurance agent and spokesman for Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa. In 1991 he helped found the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation, a pro-EU group named after the French bureaucrat who helped conceive the idea of European integration in the 1940s. He's as European as they come, but he can't hold back a chuckle at his neighbors' discomfiture. "What I would reproach the EU for was an excess of happiness due to long-lasting stabilization," he said. "It's never healthy to be too happy. And in this sense we"—the countries that joined the EU this year—"experienced a sort of nervousity. Good for all of us."

It would be a serious mistake to overstate the influence the 10 new economies have had on European politics. After all, they really do have a long way to go before they match Western levels of affluence. Together the 10 new countries account for less than five per cent of European GDP.

During visits to Brussels and Berlin, EU reports and German officials spoke to me about Poland mostly in terms of cooperation. The Poles backed the EU line on the Iraq war. They bought American-built F-16 fighter planes instead of good European jets. With Spain, Poland blocked negotia-



TALKING TURKEY AT THE EU

Many still see the secular Islamic country as too foreign

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH the European Union hasn't added new members before—it started with six member states signing the Treaty of Rome in 1957 and has grown to 25, with Romania and Bulgaria set to join in 2007. In fact, there's a school of thought that says whenever the EU doesn't know what to do next, it gets bigger. But another candidate for membership is causing unprecedented controversy: Turkey. Only the Turkish issue gets to the heart of a question whose answer has now become debate and division: what, precisely, is "Europe" for?

"Do we want the river of Islam to enter the riverbed of secularism?" Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the prime minister of France, said with understated bluntness in an interview with the Wall Street Journal. Many in Europe see Turkey as an intractably foreign thorn to geography, religion, culture—and the fact that, with a population of nearly 70 million, more than France's, Turkey would simply be too big to assimilate.

It's a delicate question, which means it's divided Europe in unresolvable ways. Raffarin sounds skeptical, but so does Jacques Chirac, 1997's favorite Turkish member, and has asked for a national referendum on the issue. A former French president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing—whose opinion carries clout because he was in charge of introducing the new European constitution—has said that Turkish membership would be "the end of the EU." Giscard has also warned daily

Turkey's candidacy has raised the question what precisely is "Europe" for?

that Turkey's supporters are "the adversaries of the European Union."

Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, can do little more than watch the debates and try to remove obstacles in the way of his country's candidacy. Erdogan's party has killed roasts, but he has bent over backwards to demonstrate that Turkey can fit into secular Europe with Christian roots. One example of his—and Europe's—sensitivities came in September, when Turkey's parliament began considering penal code reforms demanded by the EU. When Erdogan's party wanted to add a provision that would have outlawed adultery, the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, told Turkey such a ban would hurt the country's candidacy. The timing could not have been worse: the commission is to report on Oct. 6 on whether EU leaders should begin formal membership talks. Soon after European papers first reported the controversy, Erdogan was in Brussels looking for a chance to make things right. Turkey then passed the reforms—without the adultery ban.

In membership, if it ever comes, is still a decade away. But the debate between those who see Turkey's Islamic society as an obstacle, and those who see the country as a valuable bridge between Europe and the Middle East, is already heating up. PW

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train on the voting system in the new European constitution for months on end, unwilling to give up the extra voting power it would lose under a new system. One member of Germany's governing party privately expressed the hope that after spending a few years in Brussels, the Poles would become more "sophisticated" in their thinking.

Nowosi-Konopka rather suspects that if anyone is going to be screaming against it, it will work in the opposite direction. As vice-rector of the College of Europe's Polish campus in Modona, he has watched students

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SAYING JA TO USER FEES

What Germany can teach us about sustainable health care

OVER DINNER in Ottawa a few months ago, a cabinet minister said it was like pulling teeth to get anything out of his department's bureaucrats about the way other countries are governed, unless the countries in question are the United States or Great Britain. It's a shame—although it will come as no surprise to anyone who's heard its debate about health care in Canada that assumes the only alternative is the U.S. system.

But a Canadian reporter traveling in Europe is often struck by the lessons we could learn if we paid attention. Germany's health care reform is a handy example. Here, it's useful to compare public pensions and health care. Germany could stand to learn from the way Canada runs its pension system. But we could learn a lot from the Germans about keeping health care sustainable.

Germany is going through a painful and politically unpopular pension reform caused by a simple problem: Germans depend too heavily on the government to provide for their retirement. This was not a big problem until Germany's population started aging and its unemployment rates went up.

Suddenly the public pension-insurance scheme was paying more benefits, but a

smaller active population was paying into the system to fund it. This was driving premiums up. But since pension premiums are a hefty tax on salaries—25.5 per cent in Germany, compared to only 9.6 per cent for Canada's Pension Plan premiums—taking premiums would have made it even more expensive to hire employees, resulting in even worse unemployment.

THE reforms reduced demand by reminding people that health care is never free—even if you're not the one paying for it

So part of Germany's Agenda 2010 reform reduces pension benefits and starts paying them later, by raising the retirement age for some recipients. But this doesn't mean Germany's government is trying to cut elderly Germans out of the labor or work them until they drop. Instead, Germans are being encouraged to save more of their own money for retirement—and to rely more heavily on pension funds run by their employers as

The German plan eased doctors' visits to drop 10 per cent in the first quarter of 2004

well as the state pension scheme.

Well, any Canadian (or at least any Canadian accountant) would recognize the German "reform" as a version of the three-pillar pension scheme—a blend of public pensions, employer pensions and private savings—that has characterized the Canadian system for decades.

Now here's the next part, if the cost of Canada's health-care system is hard for governments to sustain, it's because we treat health care the way the Germans used to treat pensions: as something only the government should be providing. Germans use a complex mix of public and private for-profit health insurance. You could call it "American-style two-tier health care," but Germans would just stare at you blankly because they see nothing American about it.

Still, the cost of health care goes up no matter who pays for it. So the latest round of German health-care reform attacked that problem directly by working to reduce demand. How? By reminding Germans that health care is never free, even if you're not the one paying for it.

Now, Germans over 18 have to pay 10 euros the first time they visit a doctor any three-month period. The second visit is free. Visits to other doctors, as long as the patient is referred by the first doctor, are free—although if a patient simply goes doctor shopping to cheaper suppliers, he has to pay 10 euros for each visit. And finally, patients must pay 10 per cent of the cost of prescription medication, up to a very modest ceiling of 10 euros.

These user fees eased doctors' visits to drop 10 per cent in the first quarter of 2004. The public health insurance system should be able to cut premiums and reduce debt, making the system healthier for patients who really do need to visit the doctor.

Of course, a Canadian government that introduces user fees for health care will be harshly punished by voters. Which means more will have to try it—until the cost of our health-care system keeps ballooning for another few years. By then, the German example will start looking very attractive to Canadian governments.

DAVE



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from all over Europe study together. "I was watching how youngsters from Italy, the U.K., France seemed to be somehow... assimilated... by those from Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Bulgaria—who are like hordes before the raid just waiting for the starting signal? Of course, those youngsters from the Czech Republic, or from Moldova or from Romania, their parents are poor like hell. They inherit nothing. The only thing they have is their own brains, their own dynamic, their own will to win the world."

He paused. "Without drawing up any extravagant claims, I think this will be the result of this enlargement. Sooner or later, it's like bringing a new firm that is much poorer into the consortium. Why do it? Either just close it, to kill off some competition—or you believe it will put some new energy into a company that is dying from happiness and from doing nothing."

If the most important date so far for the new New Europe was the adoption of the 10 new member states in May, two other vital moments are already on the horizon. One is the ratification of the new European constitution, a brand new set of rules for

There has long been debate about the established welfare-state model.

governing this ungaily 25 member beast. Every one of the 25 member states must ratify the constitution. Several, including France, Poland and the U.K., have indicated they'll hold referendums to their people.

"WE NEED complete tax reform. It will make the French and Germans even angrier—because we will cut even more."

lators, not their parliaments, can decide whether to ratify. In theory, a No vote in even one member state would kill the new constitution and provide the most serious setback yet to the EU's growth.

The other rendezvous is even more critical but may prove to be a sleeper. In 2000, lawmakers from the EU member states met in Lisbon and developed a strategy to make the EU the world's most dynamic and competitive economy by 2010. It will

come as little surprise to readers of the business pages that Europe almost immediately began missing targets set by that "Lisbon strategy."

But some of the new New Europeans, including most of the Polish politicians I talked to, still see Lisbon as their best chance to push for reforms that will export the small-government model to the rest of Europe. Witold Wierzbicki, Poland's foreign minister, told me the mid-term report of the Lisbon strategy, due next spring, will be a harshly critical call for still more reform. "We have to think very seriously about the conditions we have to meet if we really want to transform our economy," he said.

It will be a fascinating episode: the Zugzwang of a Stale's weakened empire, PDAs in hand, PowerPoint presentations at the ready, challenging the sleepy members of the European prosperity club to share that prosperity by expending it and giving it a heavy free-market push. "We come as young, hungry wolves that upset the harmony of the whole stable," Piotr Nowinski-Kanopolis told me. He was smiling as he said it.



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Japan	6.8	2.3
Germany	3.5	-1.9
Russia	3.4	0.3

TOP 5 OIL NET-EXPORTERS

	BARRELS PER DAY (MILLION)
Saudi Arabia	8.3
Russia	6.8
Algeria	3.9
Iran	2.9
United Arab Emirates	2.3

LEGEND

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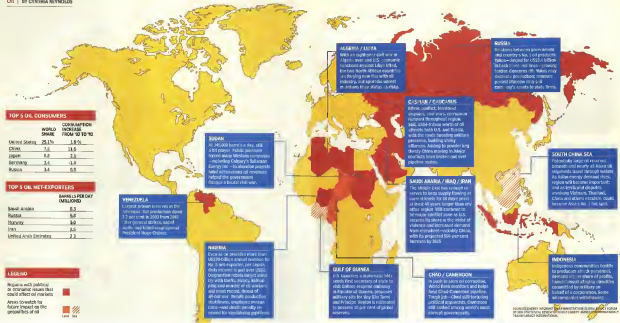
Energy reserves and conflict can go hand in hand

THERE'S PLENTY of oil to go around—for now, at least. That fear drives the market, and investors are underpinned these days. The latter worry more than the former does, which is why oil prices are down, even though the Gulf of Mexico (other major source has hit through hard, but upsurge in the Gulf of Mexico) Adding to concerns about supply shortages: production is under threat at a number of locales, including Russia and

Nigeria. It was enough to drive the price of a barrel of oil over the US\$50 psychological barrier last week. The U.S. in particular faces its future access to oil. Not only is its consumption growing, but China is increasing its share of foreign imports—and the U.S., the world's top net exporter, is increasingly troubled by its dependence on the distant Middle East (Canada is already net exporter, but as

biggest reserves, the costly-to-extract Alberta tar sands, won't look terribly attractive until conventional reserves decline worldwide and oil prices increase.) As a result, the U.S. is hoarding oil to diversify its supply. In the process, it's changing the geopolitics of oil. The World Bank estimates its source-rich areas are four times more likely to experience violent conflict. Foreign development can alter diplomatic relationships

and exacerbate already existing tensions by deepening local environmental or creating strife over sharing revenues. Indeed, the American search for black gold involves areas just as explosive as the Persian Gulf. The former Soviet republic of the Caspian Sea region, which may possess the largest oil reserves outside the Middle East, are mired in brutal regional conflict. The map illustrates current and potential hot spots





IN SEARCH OF THE CHECHENS

ALEXANDRE TRUDEAU goes looking for fighters, and finds an ancient people rooted in their landscape

SEPT. 1 Thirty or so armed men and women hold 1,000 people hostage in a school in Beslan, a small town in southern Russia. The hostages are teachers and schoolchildren, controlled by their captives into the penitentiary. After a siege that lasts several days, a bomb accidentally goes off saving the hostages. Scores of them are killed and wounded, and panic ensues. Hostages try to escape by the windows, the kidnappers start shooting at their fleeing captives. Local people surrounding the school open fire on the kidnappers. The police storm the school and start bombing go off. The building goes up in flames. All except one of the kidnappers is killed. Over 300 of the hostages die. Many of the dead are young children.

We are told that the hostage takers are mainly ethnic Muslims from the southern Russian provinces of Ingushetia, Dagestan and Chechnya. A few weeks later, an obscure website features a quote from Chechen leader Shamil Basayev, daring responsibility: The Chechens have struck again.

The match has come to mean something horrible: The Chechens, and Chechnya, symbolize war, destruction and terror. Soon after my arrival in Russia, I tell my friends in Moscow that I will visit the Chechens, that I feel compelled to understand these people. They respond with anger: "There is nothing to understand," they say. "They will rob you, kidnap you, kill you. Please do not die for something so meaningless."



After two weeks of a debate, Chechnya is a warzone. It is effectively divided into two zones: the area under Russian military control in the north, and the Chechen zone toward the south and into the mountains. Russian forces control Grozny, the capital, during the day, only to lose it at night. I am reluctant to accept one of the military tours of the Russian zone, something the Russian army offers journalists. I need to find another way to make contact with Chechens, spend time with them, get a sense of who they are.

Chechnya is in the North Caucasus, hugging up against the ragged mountains that form the border with Georgia. The Pankisi Gorge cuts into these mountains. Although it is

on the Georgian side, it is a Chechen place, filled with refugees and, allegedly, a haven for fighters. Two years ago, it was the temporary home for much of the Chechen rebel leadership. Isolated, Russia possessed Georgia to reassert control over Pankisi. The gorge is now a restricted access area, carefully monitored by the Georgian police and military. But it is still a hot way to the Chechens. The trick is to try to make contact with some before going to the gorge, possibly in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital.

THESE DAYS—and especially since the Beslan incident—Chechens keep a low profile in Georgia. Grateful to find refuge, they don't want to make it hard for the Georgians by

making their presence too obvious. Through a rough-looking Georgian journalist, I get the names of some Chechen "journalists" in Tbilisi. I am a specialist of being set up, the Georgian is overly calm about these Chechen "arranging things" forms. After a lively meeting, the Chechens promise to get back to me about going to Pankisi, but don't; after a couple of days, I make contact again. As if I had not been left hanging, they tell me right away there is no problem in me going, but that I will have to go clandestinely. I am sent to speak to the men who, for a price, will take me.

Trudeau with Chechens in the mountains (top left), Georgia troops in the gorge

Sojourners is tall, thin and fair-skinned, with the gaunt, expressionless features of someone who has seen—or done—too much. He is some kind of refugee. He doesn't speak English, I don't speak Russian. I watch him for some signs of warmth. None. Still, I agree to go with him. My logic is simple: how can I trust him if I don't trust him?

At the appointed time, we meet at the minibuses depot. The driver takes a road that gradually leads to the mountains. For several hours, I watch the countryside slide by, wondering how we will get through the checkpoint. Finally, the minibuses gestates to me to slouch down. The minibuses slow to a crawl and slowly rolls by some Georgian soldiers for inspection. The van is packed with

women and children. I sat at the back with a few men. Thumping my head and frowning deep. The Georgians were so on and I sat in.

Podstai is a series of villages strung out on the flood plain where the Alazani River creeps from steep mountains. The communities are dense groupings of small wooden houses surrounded by vegetable gardens. The inhabitants are Rkotsi, Chechens who fled over the mountains 200 years ago during the given Chechen war with the ossetians. They are Georgian citizens, but now they've been joined by a new batch of Chechen refugees fleeing a new war with new Russians.

I follow Salpudov through the narrow streets to a Rkotsi house where I will sleep. An old lady in a headscarf warmly embraces me. The Chechens are Muslims, but evidently not like Muslims elsewhere. Many times, I have had my hand waved dismissively away by elderly ladies whose hand I have insistently tried to shake. Here I am alone.

It is the magic hour before sunset. Golden rays light up the cornfields, haystacks and that must follow Salpudov past the colorful little houses toward the river. Along the way, people call out "salama alahum"—peace to you—to each other and hug. I am especially embraced by strangers. Homes graze on the grassy plain. A man is overhauling some boys who are profusely knocking up a can off a kiosk with their daggers. We arrive at the river. Salpudov removes his shoes, puts his feet in the water, turns to me—and goes from ear to ear.

Of the Chechens, I expected a somber and extreme people, and a gray and barren land. And here I am with Salpudov, lustily smiling my face, trading words in my natural language. Chechens speak with any thing I have ever heard: short, guttural and choppy. River is "khi," mountain is "lan," fire is "on." It is the thrill of which Chechens seem to be made.

The next day without refugees. The worst of the war without money, family, friends or connections to arrange better lodgings. They live in gray straggles in small communities on black buildings in the middle of town. The incidents are without electricity or sewage. In fact, all of Podstai is without electricity or sewage.

Ossetians live in a single cell-like common kitchen. Men are wearing rugged, unbuttoned, tan, hooded, lined shirts. He proudly tells me that he used to be in the Soviet army and worked at a nuclear missile



site. "The war was done in Australia and San Francisco," he says with a golden-toothed grin. "I was once part of their missile defense, now I run from the Russians. The Soviet times were better for us. Good services and no discrimination." He lifts his arm to show numerous scars from bullet wounds. "Now I have had my fill of war."

The atmosphere is entirely different in a picturesque little settlement named Solokhi in the whole hierarchy of the Podstai valley villages. Solokhi is at the top, on a name spoken with a slight tone of reverence. There, I am introduced to the four brothers of the Unkha clan and their families. They have lived in Podstai for four years, since the war became unmanageable as Chechens. Milikhan, a young Underdog girl in a bright pink dress, speaks

broken English and serves as my translator. The family talks quickly about Chechens. They tell me that there are no proper schools here for their children, and no real work. I slowly understand they have heard a rumor that Chechens are considering taking in some Chechen refugees—which goes a long way toward explaining why I was welcomed to Podstai in the first place. I tell them Bolshoi would probably make Chechens very nervous about Chechens right now. "This has nothing to do with us," they shout in exasperation. "Do we look like terrorists?" One woman pauses and says, "I cannot bear the thought of those dead children. It is so terrible." A man says, "They kill our children, they level our houses, but we don't do the same."

A village arrives with a dramatic warning:



Moskayev (left) says her house is always searched; a soldier patrols in the village of Dusha

"A raid! The special forces are coming! Five minutes!" A military helicopter buzzes overhead. I am drilled away into a Rkotsi house with Milikhan and some other children. "That happens a lot," she says. "My mother gets really worried. All the men in our family were fighters at one point or another. They could take any one of them," she says of the Georgian soldiers now outside. "They don't search Rkotsi houses, only Chechen ones," she adds. As it turns out, the operation has been staged for a Russian TV show—a show for public relations between the Russians and the Georgians.

Milika Moskayev is one of those whose house is searched. She tells me it happens every time there is a raid, and says she wants to leave. When I ask whether she would raise Chechens if she came to Canada, she cannot help back her teeth in the angry delivery. "I will never move Chechens so long as there are Russians there."

"Not all Chechens want to leave," a young woman with a black scarf tells me. Her English is good and her face stands out round and soft. She converses with the others in Russian, and I ask her where she is from. She tells me that she doesn't want to live and won't tell me. So I guess, and she begins to not to reveal it in print. She is 23. Over a year ago, just out of film school, she came to Chechnya to make money—and fell in love with a young fighter. She has been married

two months; he is in the mountains and she is waiting for him. "You are a terrorist," I say. "What I want to tell her is that she's chosen a hard road, that behind the romance are ugly things. But who am I to say that?" In the end, I admire her spirit.

THE NAME has come to mean something horrible: the Chechens symbolize war, destruction and terror.

She is living in Podstai with her husband's best friend and his family. He is a fighter, now 26, he started when he was 17. "I miss it," he says. "But I cannot fight in the lowlands. Too many people know me, there is nowhere to hide. And I cannot fight in the mountains anymore. My gun can't handle it." In the mountains, for weeks on end, you only eat nuts. It is only for the young."

ORGANIZING A TRIP to the mountains involves more than a business. But it shows me another side of the Chechens: they are home people. As I wait on the street one night while Salpudov tries to arrange change, riders gallop by. I see the moonlight. It is an eerie quiet hour.

The next day, Salpudov and I hitch a ride

on a motorized carriage. It takes us into the overgrown and past another Georgian checkpoint. Along the way, Salpudov points out a hydroelectric dam and smelter. His meaning seems obvious. Podstai has no electricity, yet here we see that there is power—the Georgians tolerate the Chechens, but do not want to encourage more of them to come.

We ford the last flowing river on foot and penetrate the thick forest on the other side. Two Chechens bring horses and we go deeper into the forest. Salpudov and the others constantly give me handfuls of wild nuts and berries they gather as we go. We pass an ancient cemetery of stone houses, now home to an old man and three little boys. They tell me their sons have to go to know the mountains, Salpudov explains.

The forest is magical, the mountains tower above us. As the path gets steeper, we pass a few lone riders. One looks like a young Fidel Castro, with a commandant's cap and a strangely bold. I begin to get a sense why legends of heavily armed Russians cannot defeat these small bands, no one masters the terrain like they can. They belong to it.

We use our map, along to the Chechens' paths. A dog would be deadly, but the Chechens, who seem to have incredible faith in their little mountain homes, laugh at my apprehension. Finally, emerging from the trees, we establish camp around a cracked lake. A Khed, a young teenage boy carrying dinner—dead sheep—arrives to serve us. He is from Solokhi, but wanders the mountains with the sheep—more training. Soon he will fight. That is the Chechen way.

The next day we climb higher on foot. The Chechens stop to pray every now and then. In these mountains, their worship is an impulse and as true as any I have ever witnessed. There are mountains beyond mountains. Salpudov points out a narrow pass, more than a day's walk away. Chechens are there. It can be done. But not this time.

I learned long ago to mirror the politics of romance, and the Chechen story is a romance of an old man. But never have I had so strong a sense of a people who belonged where they were. And while I've met fighters, there's been nothing of the swiftness of Bolshoi in the men and women I have talked to. But they are tough. The only way to defeat the Chechens is to exterminate them, and that is not to be. We humans are lucky to still come in such a forest old world.



CUE MARTHA'S COMEBACK

The final act in Stewart's rags-to-redemption story is just beginning

IT'S BEEN SAID many times that the one thing North Americans like more than a success story is a fall from grace. Well, the one thing we like even more than that is a story of spectacular redemption. And before the final scene is written in the Martha Stewart saga, you can be sure the home-maker-turned-media-magnate-turned-convicted-felon will produce a Hollywood ending for herself.

It seems worthwhile to note this now because, as of Oct. 8, Stewart becomes federal inmate No. 33174-054 and begins serving her five-month sentence at a minimum security

prison. She was convicted in March of obstructing justice and lying to federal agents. Rather than wait for her appeal to be heard, Stewart has opted to serve her time now, in hopes she can put the whole humiliating affair behind her.

It would seem Martha Stewart's image, and the value of her name as a brand, is in ruins. Her company's finances are in crisis, and securities regulators are still circling. But keep your eye on the sides of Stewart's court, because she'll be rising from them before long.

I'm not predicting that out of any real sympathy for Stewart, I don't believe she'll have gravely wronged by the system—though her supporters will go to their graves believing this. Call me crazy, but I think when the FBI asks questions, there are only two options: tell the truth, or say nothing. Making up little white lies because you don't think the questions are pertinent isn't allowed, as master who you are or how much money you have.

I also don't buy into the notion that Stewart is being done in by the forces of conspiracy. This is another fantastic fiction among Stewart's decades, who centralizes the old boy's club of big business executives' mind on innocent women victimizing so much power. That's nonsense. She started with a catering business and built it into a media empire with US\$235.6 million in 2006 revenue. Any one who suggests Stewart was targeted by the Securities and Exchange Commission simply because she's a woman surely underestimates her significance as a corporate leader.

Napoe, you won't catch me wearing one of

those "I'm Martha" T-shirts. But let's give credit where it's due: Stewart has guts. And there is plenty of fertile ground in which she can cultivate her new image. The seeds have already been planted. It was announced recently that Mark Burnett, the reality TV producer behind *Survivor* and *The Apprentice*, will remake Stewart's flagship television program. Burnett has some experience publishing the reputations of fallen business icons. It's easy to forget: these days, but about 10 years ago Donald Trump was a joke. He'd gone through a messy divorce in public, his business was floundering under a mountain of debt, and there was the matter of his ridiculous hair. Nowadays, thanks to Burnett and the amazing success of *The Apprentice*, Trump is hailed as one of the

SURVIVOR creator Mark Burnett will remake Stewart's flagship TV show. He has experience reviving fallen business icons. Remember, 10 years ago Trump was a joke.

great business gurus of the modern age—and the last has only gotten worse.

Some say Stewart's reinstatement will be more difficult than The Donald's. If Harman's company sustained a US\$339.6 million loss in the first half of 2004 and revenue was down 28 per cent. But given the way addressing market of late, and the fact that the founder and main brand is heading for a start in the big house, a 25 per cent decline is hardly a disaster. There are still buyers out there who think Stewart can do no wrong.

Moreover, while the SEC continues to rumble about civil insider-trading charges

against her, that aspect of the case will always lightly whisper: Stewart got in trouble in the first place for selling her shares in Laclede Systems just before a ruling from U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent the products to free fall. But no one has ever said Stewart knew about the impending FDA rejection. It appears she was tipped off that Laclede CEO Sam Wiklund was selling stock, and on that basis, she allegedly sold him. Does a second-hand tip about somebody else's decision count as inside information? Let's just say the SEC's case against Stewart is far from airtight.

Still, Stewart won't be the easiest prisoner candidate. She isn't naturally sympathetic, her temper is legendary, and her demeanor is offensively. According to Christopher M. Lyndon's book *Martha Inc.*, Hallmark Cards commissioned a study in 1997, reportedly the "nicest" celebrities as judged by the American public. Stewart came in dead last.

But North Americans don't believe in permanent humiliation, especially for something as common as lying to the government. Just ask Bill Clinton. Like him, Stewart is too smart and too driven to be written off. And the fact she's been knocked down a peg may be the best thing that could have happened to her. As someone as Stewart was, many people resented her as the embodiment of an insatiable domestic perfection. Now, they can respect her as the scrappy daughter of working-class parents who fought her way to the top of the business world, were knocked down and then got up to fight again. Stewart always represented a life people aspired to, now her fans can see their own struggles in her, and will admire her all the more for it.

At her sentencing in July, Stewart told reporters she was not afraid of what lay ahead. "I will be back," she said, everybody anywhere, of course. The difference is, she will be. ■

steve.marsh@canadianbusiness.com



Diabetes & Abdominal Fat: A WEIGHTY MATTER



How Controlling the Pounds Can Control the Disease

If Researcher and Professor Jean-Pierre Despres, director of research at Québec Heart Institute, Laval Hospital Research Center in Ste-Foy, Québec has his way, every health professional you consult will have a tape measure as well as a scale in his or her office. After recording your weight and height, he or she will also measure your waistline. Despres' lab has been studying the risks of too much body fat for 20 years, and he says waist size is a good predictor of health risks. "Anyone with a waist circumference of 90 centimetres or more is a time bomb for type 2 diabetes and heart disease," he warns.

Be good to your heart. Because you'd like to meet your daughter-in-law. Because you like to be tickled. Because this week's lottery is \$20 million. Because your luck is about to change. Because you finally have time for a hobby. Because the election is coming. Because you haven't left your mark. Because you're comfortable. Because you want to hear someone call you grandma. **Because you're living with diabetes.** Because you've got unfinished business. Because you've never been to Africa. Because you've just discovered yoga. Because you haven't read that message in your inbox. Because you haven't seen your brother in years. Because your crush will be at the reunion. Because your taste buds are just waking up. Because you're enjoying the finer things. Because you've found the perfect colour for the living room. Because you just learned a really good joke. Because you can finally keep up with the aerobics instructor. Because you can't wait for next week's episode. Because you've got one chapter left. **Because you're up to four times more likely to suffer from heart disease.** Because you've finally realized why people love to golf. Because you were going to call back but you just haven't had time. Because there's only one unsolved clue in the crossword. Because the new spring collection is on its way. Because you're finally standing out. Because your rut is turning into a groove. Because that Fortune cookie might be right. Because you've never used the good china. Because what's on Mars? Because you have a full day planned tomorrow. Because he'll miss you. Because she'll miss you. Because they'll all miss you. Because reality TV is on its way out. Because a little thing can make a big difference. Because you've yet to get your 15 minutes in the spotlight. Because you're on the up and up. **Because a healthy diet low in saturated and trans fats may reduce your risk of heart disease. Becel is low in saturated and trans fats.** So, no matter what your reasons, be good to your heart.



Diabetes costs the Canadian health care system an estimated \$13.2 billion each year, and these costs are expected to rise to \$15.6 billion by 2010.



By 2010, the number of people with diabetes in Canada is expected to rise to three million. The numbers are burning at the seams not just because the population is getting older (at one time, type 2 diabetes was considered a disease of the elderly), but because it's getting fatter. Doctors are diagnosing type 2 diabetes in all age groups today—including, increasingly, in children—and they're pointing a finger at the typical North American lifestyle. They're also discouraged by the fact that diabetes can be prevented or delayed by reducing the very habits that put people at risk in the first place—and at the top of the list are a poor diet and too little physical activity.

It's the same story with heart disease (which is actually the most frequently occurring complication of diabetes) and some types of cancer. "Science shows that over 50 percent of these diseases could be prevented by implementing policies, programs and research in prevention," says Bonnie Horstmann, executive director of the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada, an organization created to do just what its name suggests. The Canadian Diabetes Association, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and more than 40 other concerned groups have banded together to foster a nationwide movement to help people live longer and healthier lives.

In the diabetes research area, landmark studies conducted in the United States and Europe two years ago showed that people at high risk for developing the disease who went on intensive healthy-eating and active living regimens could reduce their risk for developing diabetes by 58 per cent, reports Donna Lillie, vice president of research and professional education at The Canadian Diabetes Association. While some individuals may still develop type 2 diabetes, a healthy lifestyle can help them manage it and prevent or delay the onset of complications.

Sadly, once you get diabetes, it never goes away. About 60 per cent of people who develop the disease have type 2, which refers to a state in which the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin (the

body needs insulin to convert sugar to energy) or when the body doesn't use the insulin that is produced effectively. A person with type 2 diabetes is advised to control blood glucose levels with healthy eating and regular exercise, but often medication is required as well. Type 1 diabetes describes the condition in which the pancreas no longer produces any insulin, or produces very little. About 10 per cent of people with diabetes have type 1 and must take insulin every day. A third type, gestational diabetes, is a temporary condition that occurs in two to four per cent of all pregnancies.

Checklist Signs and Symptoms of Diabetes

- Unusual thirst
- Frequent urination
- Weight changes
- Extreme fatigue or lack of energy
- Frustrated vision
- Frequent or recurring infections
- Cuts and bruises that are slow to heal
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Trouble getting or maintaining an erection



80% of patients with diabetes
die of heart disease.

Not managing diabetes well—if not knowing you have it—can mean your blood glucose levels are high and, over a long period of time, this state can cause one or more of the often-devastating complications of the disease: heart disease, kidney disease, blindness, amputations, nerve damage (such as peripheral arterial disease) or erectile dysfunction.

Research has also shown that not all complications of diabetes are related to high blood glucose levels. Type 2 diabetes patients can also have a cluster of additional abnormalities (including high levels of certain fats in their blood and an inflammation profile) that predict heart disease risk too, Desautels warns. "This has nothing to do with blood sugar control," he says. "Instead, it can be a consequence of abdominal obesity—and 80 percent of type 2 diabetic patients have abdominal obesity."

Studies have shown that fat distribution is genetic, so if your parents tend to put on weight in the abdominal area, says Desautels, you may tend to do so as well. "But you can fight your genes with a healthy lifestyle," he advises. If you're 35 and beginning to develop a pot belly, recognizes that you're at greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes—and take preventive steps to lower your risk.

The warning for everyone starts with knowing the risk factors for type 2 diabetes: being age 40 or over, being overweight, being closely related to someone with diabetes, having had gestational diabetes, having had a heavy baby, and being of Aboriginal, Hispanic, Asian or African descent. If any of those factors apply to you, stay on top of your health with the help of your doctor and work to modify your lifestyle.

Medical practitioners emphasize healthy food choices. To

understand why, consider what happens in your body when you eat a chocolate-covered doughnut. It's high in sugar and fat—and taste like—but provides an instant high energy burst. Just as quickly, though, warns Sharon Zeller, senior manager, nutrition initiatives and strategies, Canadian Diabetes Association, your blood glucose can drop because there's nothing to sustain it, leaving you feeling low and possibly feeling shaky and tired. Zeller recommends replacing doughnuts with whole wheat crackers and cheese—a nutrient dense snack that is digested more slowly and keeps your blood glucose at a more even level for longer.

For the best possible management of blood glucose, blood fats and blood pressure, Canadian Diabetes Association's nutrition guidelines recommend that 50 to 55 percent of the total calories you eat every day come from carbohydrate foods such as grains, fruits and vegetables, and milk. High fibre choices (e.g., whole wheat or pumpernickel bread, raw fruits and vegetables) are also recommended, because fibre helps slow down digestion, which helps regulate blood glucose. Adding protein to the mix helps regulate blood glucose still more. About 15 percent of calories should come from proteins, either from meats or from non-meat sources such as beans, lentils, legumes and tofu.

For the best weight loss strategy, set realistic goals, avoid tough-to-maintain fad diets and choose a healthy eating plan that you can stick to over the long term. Consider that a study done in P.E.I. showed that losing just five to 10 percent of weight can make a difference to health risks. "If you're abdominally obese," adds Desautels, "the first step to making it go away if you lose weight will be bad fat."

Do you think pain or cramping in your legs are just a part of getting older? Think again.

If you're experiencing pain, cramping or a tired feeling in your legs when you walk, you may have Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD). PAD is a condition in which your leg arteries gradually become narrowed due to fatty deposits. PAD increases your risk of having a heart attack or stroke.¹

And people with diabetes are up to 3 times as likely to have PAD than those without diabetes.² Your doctor can tell you more about PAD, its risks and its treatment. Just ask.

See your doctor.

REFERENCES: 1. American Diabetes Association. Peripheral Arterial Disease in People with Diabetes. Diabetes Care 2003;26(1):83-88. 2. Sirin C. Prevalence of Lower Extremity Peripheral Arterial Disease in the United States? Results from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1988-1994. Circulation 2004;110:738-743. 3. Drury AM, Langer JD, et al. Mortality over a period of 12 years in patients with peripheral arterial disease. N Engl J Med 1998;339:1343-48.

www.atherothrombosis.org/public

Red Wine Grapes & Purple Juice Grapes -

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

You've heard it dozens of times from so many sources: drinking a glass of red wine a day is good for your heart. There are, however, many people out there who won't drink a glass of red wine every day and their reasons are varied. Some feel wasteful in drinking a whole bottle to enjoy a single glass. Others simply don't want to drink alcohol every day.

For these people, purple grape juice is an ideal way to regularly get the goodness of grapes. In fact, an average size glass can give you 2 servings of fruit a day, something most people need more of every day. So look for fruit juices that participate in Health Check™, the food information program from the Heart and Stroke Foundation. That way you know you are purchasing 100% fruit juice and that the product meets specific nutrition criteria based on Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating.

Red wine will always be the most romantic way to benefit from grapes. However, a large plastic 1.8L litre bottle of purple grape juice will stay fresh in your refrigerator for weeks, making it ideal for daily use. And a glass of purple grape juice at the breakfast table is probably less likely to cause embarrassment than a glass of red wine.

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Physical activity

It just is important in helping manage blood glucose levels, and, even better, it helps you lose weight. The Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada recommends that people with type 2 diabetes should accumulate at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity aerobic exercise every week, spread over at least three non-consecutive days. Regular aerobic activity includes activities such as brisk walking, cycling and dancing. Resistance exercise, or some type of strength training, is also recommended. There are strength training classes at health clubs as well as many fitness tapes available that use free weights or resistance bands to help strengthen muscles.

If you're sedentary now, take it one step at a time. Adding just 10 minutes a day will make a difference. Start by building activity into your day-to-day life, and then commit to organized activities such as scheduled walks with a fitness buddy, a community swim class or an exercise video to follow at home. Here are some other suggestions for getting fit:

- If you travel by bus, get off a stop earlier than you need to.
- Take the stairs instead of the escalator.
- Play with your kids or grandchildren.
- Park further away from the grocery store so, better, walk there instead of driving.
- Take up gardening.

Commitment

The Canadian Diabetes Association is committed to research, education, service and advocacy. The 8th Annual Canadian Diabetes Association/Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism Professional Conference will be held in Quebec City Oct. 27 through Oct. 30. Visit www.diabetes.ca for more information.

Here are some healthy weight-loss strategies:

- Lower your fat intake to 30 per cent or less by decreasing the fat from meats (e.g., chicken skin) and the fats you add to food such as salad dressing and cooking oil.
- If you need to improve food choices, start by adding one vegetable or fruit serving to every meal you eat.
- Reduce portion sizes by using smaller-sized plates.
- Resist the temptation to choose a "super sized" portion when dining in restaurants.




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A Better Place For You

Knowing you should exercise
is one thing, doing it regularly is another.

Diabetes Research:

Pathways to a Healthier Lifestyle

Knowing you should exercise is one thing, doing it regularly is another. Two new studies on diabetes and exercise by Dr. Iain Rennie, a behavioural epidemiologist and director of the Physical Activity and Population Health Laboratory at the University of Alberta's Centre for Health Promotion, will look for effective interventions that promote healthy, active living. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research awarded Rennie two grants this year totalling more than half a million dollars for these studies. Rennie, who is also funded by The Canadian Diabetes Association, says physical activity is an important factor in preventing and treating diabetes, but it has to be effective—and cost-effective.

The studies will take diabetes prevention strategies right into the homes of Canadians. In the first study, 2,302 people with diabetes will be divided into four groups to determine what combination of strategies work best to change attitudes and behaviours about exercise. Rennie's team will look at the use of pedometers, motivational print materials and telephone counselling. Researchers will also review and see how the physical and social environments can affect choices and motivation. Rennie explains researchers will look at whether there are accessible sidewalks for walking or bike paths in the neighbourhood. Also, what kinds of restaurants are nearby, and what kinds of foods and drinks are available in vending machines in the area?

The second, smaller study will examine resistance and endurance training for people who are obese and have type 2

diabetes. "These are hard to reach, high-risk groups that don't necessarily go to a gym or become involved in their community," says Rennie, who again will bring the gym to the home, complete with fitness trainers and equipment. The trainers will work one-on-one with the subjects, gradually weaning them as they show success by decreasing the number of times per week the trainer and subject meet. They will eventually progress to telephone counselling – until the subject is comfortable continuing to successfully follow the program alone.

Ste-foy, Quebec-based researcher and Professor Jean-Pierre Despres, is also funded by The Canadian Diabetes Association. In a new study, he wants to develop exercise recommendations to help post-menopausal women avoid unwanted weight gain and decrease their risk for type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

In a previous study, Despres found that women lose lean muscle tissue and gain abdominal fat when they go into menopause. Despres explains that when women are in their 30s, they are somehow protected against the accumulation of this bad fat. But after menopause, "visceral" (abdominal) fat can increase by 30 per cent.

With a nod to his finding that too much abdominal fat is a risk factor for type 2 diabetes and heart disease, Despres' lab is studying various exercise levels. In post-menopausal women to develop lifestyle recommendations to help avoid this type of fat gain.

Which would you rather have, a cholesterol test or a final exam?

For many, the first sign of heart disease is a heart attack. Did you know that one out of five adult Canadians is at risk of developing heart disease because they have high cholesterol?

And that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Canada?

High cholesterol is a major risk factor for heart disease and heart disease, heart cholesterol can be quite simple.

If any of these apply to you, cut this screening out and ask your doctor about getting your cholesterol tested!

- Women 55 years or older
- Men 40 years or older
- Heart disease (angina, heart attack, coronary bypass, stroke, an atherosclerosis)
- Diabetes
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- Two or more of the following:
 - Physically inactive
 - Smoker
 - High blood pressure



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For more information about World Diabetes Day, visit www.idf.org

World Diabetes Day weighs in on obesity

"Fight Obesity, Prevent Diabetes" is the slogan of this year's World Diabetes Day.

World Diabetes Day held every year on Frederick Banting's birthday, November 14, is a global awareness campaign organized by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Obesity is in the spotlight because up to 17 billion of the world's population, according to the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF), is at an increased risk of weight-related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Overweight and obesity are increasingly affecting children and adolescents too, resulting in more and more children being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

The World Diabetes Day take-home message: Overweight and obesity are modifiable risk factors. Making healthy changes to diet and activity levels leads to weight loss. And that can help delay and in many cases prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. In people with diabetes, it can reduce the risk of developing the serious complications.

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didn't run on any foreign policy platform to speak of. If anything, he said that he hoped to have a more humble America.

Bush has made plenty of mistakes, especially after winning the war in Iraq the failure to stop the looting, to provide security, to have enough troops, to get the situation ambushed early on once the insurgency began. Now, it's ratty, and people are getting killed—Americans, but also, unfortunately, lots and lots of Iraqis. Now the terrorists kill a lot more Iraqis than they do Americans. So there have been plenty of mistakes. But I would give Bush somewhat of a pass on the grounds that it's extremely hard to manage these situations you didn't plan for, and you cannot adjust that quickly. We should've built up our military intelligence and diplomatic capabilities much more quickly after 9/11. I still worry that we're trying to run a very aggressive Bush foreign policy on a '90s-size military, '90s-size diplomatic establishment, '90s-size intelligence community. That's not adequate for the post-9/11 world.

Terrorism is going to be front and center, no matter who's president, and I think that will make it a centerpiece of our future relations with countries ranging from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan to the Palestinian Authority. That's not going to change if John Kerry is president. In the '90s, after all, the problem was not that America was too unprepared. The problem with the '90s was that we were too timid and too slow. We were too slow in the Balkans, we were too timid in Rwanda. We were certainly careless about terrorism. We ignored Afghanistan. We ignored weapons of mass destruction proliferation. We were just focusing on our vital national interests and worrying about our trade with major commercial countries.

You wouldn't go into the 21st century with a huge chunk of the world being a challenge of increased terrorism, terrorism, of weapons of mass destruction development, of anti-Americanism. That had to be broken. Now, how do you do that and help them construct modern pluralistic liberal democracies, a huge challenge. It's often described as American imperialism; indeed, you know, Jeffersonian democracy [it] could have \$10 for every time I've heard someone earnestly tell me that maybe I don't realize that you can't immediately have Jeffersonian democracy in the Middle East. It'd be a very rich man. And I think most of us describe that,



"Bush was to be a domestic policy president. He hoped to have a more humble America."

you know. We didn't immediately have Jeffersonian democracy in the United States, after all, and Canada has had those conflicts as recently as living memory that actually came pretty close to threatening the integrity of the nation. Bush is right to think that we can't return to the status quo ante. I think 9/11's influence is seen in that the

"KERRY'S gambit now is to say, 'Bush got us into Iraq. It's a horrible mess. We're losing. Time for a change.'"

election is entirely a foreign policy election. Howard Dean's rise in 2003 was unprecedented. No one's ever come out of the way with no money, no name identification, and half a percentage point in the polls. He was the first runner by the end of the year. Why was that? Not because of his domestic agenda, not because of what he had to say about health care or anything like that. It was because of the war. He opposed the war, and a lot of Democratic thought. Bush was wrong to take us into Iraq and the Democrats in

Washington didn't have the guts to oppose Bush. Why did Dean fail? Because he seemed too extreme. He seemed unelectable. Because Kerry and [John] Edwards voted against the US\$82 billion to support the troops in Iraq and for reconstruction in Iraq. It was entirely a political vote—it allowed them to signal to the Dean supporters that they, too, were now *with* war.

At the Democratic convention, Kerry felt, almost I think, that he had to, post-9/11, establish himself as a commander-in-chief. He couldn't just be a traditional Democrat, worrying about health care and education. Somehow of doing it, slightly odd I think, was to emphasize that he served in Vietnam. They were over his Vietnam service earlier than

but Kerry didn't quite think through two things: that a lot of people, as much as they may have admired his service as Vietnam, resented what he did when he came back—spending out against the war and, to some degree, against the soldiers who were still fighting there. And, secondly, people don't care what you did 30 years ago; they want to know what you're going to do to lead the country post-9/11. So the Republicans were able to counterattack, and Bush had a very successful convention that moved the voting voters by several percentage points.

Kerry's gambit now is to say, "Look, Bush got us into Iraq. It's a horrible mess. It's Vietnam. We're losing. It's getting worse, and I'll get you out one way or another, or at least I will change course and magically get the Europeans to come in." I find a little fanciful the idea that, after telling the Europeans for the next two months what a horrible horrible mess Iraq is, they are going to cheerfully volunteer to come in. Kerry's not going to say, "We're going to get out." He's not going to say, "We are going to escalate," he's just going to say, "Time for a change." [Dwight] D. Eisenhower said that in '52 after Korea was a horrible nightmare under president Harry Truman. [Richard] Nixon said in '68 about Vietnam under the Democrats, and he worked for those two. So it's not a foolish move.

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FOREVER YOUNG

Two classic Canadian bands, Trooper and April Wine, are still keeping the faith

THE GUYS From two vintage Canadian rock acts, Trooper and April Wine, walked into a bar following a shared gig in Saint John, N.S., this summer, "We got there around midnight, and [April Wine singer] Myles Goodwyn ended up closing the place," says RA McGuire, Trooper's lead vocalist. "We were on stage singing Mustang Sally, Myles playing guitar, even after the audience had gone home. We were still there while they were vacuuming the place."

In fact, neither of their bands has slowed down much since their "No heyday"—both still cross-the-country and play about 100 shows a year. "Incidentally, the crowds we see as the roll of the stage lights are often between the ages of



Trooper's original lineup of Bobbi, Tommy Stewart, Kerry Kelenity and McGuire in 1976. (clockwise from back) and (clockwise) McGuire in February last month. "These people weren't even alive when our songs were on the radio," says McGuire, "and here they're closing along."





"We just played good-time stuff," says April Wine guitarist Greenway. From top: Audience commences with Calgary River; Smith introduces a guitar pick; members of an April Wine audience in Jordan Station, Ont., live it up.



35 and 35, "I-as McQuinn, 34, who is paired on stage by original number four Smith and Scott Brown, Frank's father and brother. "These people haven't even live when we were on the radio, and now they're singing along."

Heads bob and feet pump. "The songs weren't us," says McQuinn, who grew up with his wife and son as a father figure. "We're a little bit of a cult played at hockey games, and there for a good time is used at good ceremonies. We're woven into the Canadian consciousness." April Wine guitarist Brian Greenway says it comes down to writing timeless anthems like enough is enough. "We never said anything trendy," he says. "We just played good-time music." But Greenway admits that dinner parties can

be tedious by comparison. "Most friends are couples, drinking and I'm still doing what I did as a teenager," says the Montreal native, who played with his bandmates Goodbye, Jerry Muscar and Jim Cunniff in 1977 after a failed solo career. "We probably won't be rocking when we're old, but I don't think about retirement."

Although there's a lot less partying now, many things have stayed the same. And one staple of the rock 'n' roll lifestyle has aged along with them. "All we were younger, grapes would vibrate as back to their hotel rooms—for obvious reasons," says Greenway, 35, after a recent show, a couple of crooners—both in their 40s—asked if we wanted to go back to their place for a grilled cheese."

JOHN BIRCH

Wine's Greenway, Cunniff, Muscar and Goodbye (clockwise from top left) as Greenway (right)





HARD TIME IN CANADIAN FIELDS

Conditions can be tough for our 19,000 migrant workers, writes SUE FERGUSON

rooms, this one with three beds. To go to the bathroom, shower or even have a drink of water, Everson has to walk 10 metres to a separate building. That's also where he launders his clothes, by hand. To make a phone call, it's a 1.5-km walk into town.

These two-room units are the luxury accommodations at the property, housing about 50 people in seven buildings. The low-fortunate make do with one of 30 bunk beds arranged in open dormitory style under one roof. "You're not even thinking of privacy, the men here have strong sheets around the lower bunk and between some of the beds. They've dubbed the building 'Vietnam.' And when you take in the high chain-link fence topped with barbed wire that surrounds their lodgings, the imagery that came overseas resonates even more deeply.

But this is not the Third World. It's not even the southern United States. It's Canada's own Deep South, the swath of south-western Ontario stretching between Windsor in the west and Niagara Falls in the east. And the men are foreign patriots, invited into the country under the seasonal agricultural workers program (SAWP), Canada's answer to the century-old predicament of never being able to find enough workers to keep our farms running. For farmers, the program is a boon, a way to get relatively cheap, reliable labour and stay in business. For workers, too, there are positives, most notably a job, and one paying more than they'd make at home. But increasingly there are concerns about the fairness of the program and the employees' lack of rights.

In the past, orphaned, prisoners of war and new immigrants have been among those to take up the slack on farmers' fields. But in 1966, after Ottawa struck its inaugural SAWP agreement,

more than 1,600 farms, greenhouses and food-processing plants across the country.

Those same four decades saw a radical transformation of rural life as thousands of family farms gave way to large-scale agribusiness. Today, factory-like operations employing dozens, often hundreds, of workers compete with companies from every corner of the world to land their produce as Canadian's dinner tables. In vineyards, foreign agricultural workers are a growing presence. But in Ontario, which takes in 85 per cent of SAWP participants, and where the horticultural sector expended by 90 per cent between 1994 and 2006, they are the backbone of a \$3.6-billion industry. "If it wasn't for migrant workers," says Gary Cooper, president of Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (FARMS), the coalition of employers that administers SAWP, "labour-intensive agriculture in Ontario would be virtually non-existent."

While Everson's living arrangements represent one reality, it's not the only, nor even the typical, face of the program. As Fanny Belloc, who runs the Service migrant workers support centre (one of five such facilities opened in the last three years by the United Food and Commercial Workers union) insists, "There are some excellent farmers, and most are pretty good"—providing decent housing, attending to health and safety concerns and simply treating the workers with respect. Still, she has a vast verbiage of complaints culled from the 200-plus people who drop into the centre each week: a supervisor relentlessly berating his charges, a

Mexican workers and Dominican pick cucumbers near Montreal in July

man who nearly lost a leg to an infection he was told to ignore, workers without proper facilities washing clothes in the Niagara River, others forced to escape their lodgings at night and walk an hour to phone their families, greenhouse employees sleeping a metre from invasive bores. Those who speak up about conditions, she says, risk getting fired and separated, frequently within 24 hours.

That's why Everson insists I use pseudonyms and not divulge the name of his workplace. During my visit to his lodgings, wary men followed out every step. If the program means everybody's needs to be met, says Belloc, "Why are ranches? It doesn't make any sense." The native of Colombia, who moved to Simcoe 12 years ago when he entered a Canadian teacher,

STEPPING THROUGH the narrow doorway of the grey, barracks-like place Everson calls home, you pass through three walls of wood paneling until you're standing in the centre of the small room he shares with another man. Arms hanging straight at your sides, your fingers can touch the mattresses of both makeshift beds. Two ropes draped with an orange T-shirt and navy pants reverse the low ceiling at oblique angles. The rest of the men's lockers are crisscrossed into a corner closet or stashed over their beds. Down a tight passageway is a similar



add: "I can't believe this happens in Canada."

Nor can a number of other people. Unions, academics, church and social justice groups are among those trying to rectify the worst abuses and promote the rights of foreign workers. They're also keeping an eye on a new, less regulated federal initiative that brings in low-skilled workers in other industries (page 78). As Canadians increasingly depend on migrant workers—who number perhaps 170 million worldwide—to keep the price we pay for produce in check, and a multi-billion dollar industry afloat, advocates for workers pose a timely question: are we doing enough to protect the welfare and dignity of our guest workers?

OUR DEPENDENCE on migrant labor runs deep and wide. For every guest worker, estimates Cooper, a Sincere, Ont., produce farmer who employs 90 people under the SAWP, three Canadians hold jobs in the transport, packing and consumer industries. And he notes that the migrants spend two-thirds of their earnings here—as \$10 million bounty each year for local shops, restaurants and providers of telephone, banking and other services. A Sincere dis-

count store manager told University of Guelph sociologists that the migrant work on "pre-return shopping spree is 'literally like Christmas in September'."

They may be more visible as consumers, but the workers are here to make money. Pineda at \$770 an hour, with no overtime and the government skimming off about a third of their pay for taxes and other contributions, they still return more than they would doing the same work at home, where such jobs even available. While they can't have any number of small ap-

pliances, second-hand bikes and pairs of sneakers, their Canadian incomes go, for the most part, to providing the basics. Gustavo Ruelas, 42, has worked in the Sincere area since 1991, on tobacco, celery and cauliflower. He, and for the past three years, at a greening operation. "My boss is good," he says. "The only problem is that I work so much hours—13 hours a day. It's hard for me." He calls his wife and four children aged 4 to 15 in Mexico City daily, most recently to check upon his son, the oldest, who's been skipping school. And every two weeks, he returns money home. "If it's not working,"

says Ruelas, "my kids don't have food." George Nash, a 24-year veteran of the SAWP, is one of many Jamaican migrants who will spend any extra money he earns this year on rebuilding his house in the wake of September's Hurricane Ivan. Watching the devastation of his country on TV, he recalls, "I was weak—like I could go to the hospital and lie down." His wife and four children, he later learned, took refuge in the basement as their roof blew off. The 46-year-old farmer (his wife tends the crop which he sows seven months of

Strawberry Time: Fruit in Simcoe, Ont., has made him popular and TV

the year) is among the more fortunate of his compatriots. He works for Cooper who, between interest-free loans and skipping deducting building materials worth, is spending \$15,000 to help out.

About half the guest workers on Cooper's 800-acre Strawberry Thyme farm and veg. table farm live in two bachelors on the main property. The larger of the two is far from elegant, but it's comfortable enough. A white plastic curtain divides a neat common room in two, concealing an industrial-style kitchen where the men cook their own meals. In front are two long picnic tables



dumped in red-checked plastic cloths. A set of dominos and a housemade board game are evidence of their after work activities. There's also a TV, a dozen bent-up armchairs and couches and two telephones. The washrooms and laundry facilities are in an adjoining room. The sleeping quarters appear to be narrow but private. And painted on the wall are a series of helpful notices, including phone numbers for doctors, reason liaison officers (whom workers can call for help with disputes and other issues).

Lawrence Boathe is in the field by 6:30 or 7 at least on mornings a week. "Picking strawberries is hard on the back for a little while," says the 42-year-old Jamaican. "Your muscles start to break." But he knows he's got it good. "The year's not so bad for some guys." Nash too has hard stories. But when pressed, he won't be specific. "Mostly about the way people are treated by their bosses," he says. "Lots are scared to say anything because they want to come back."

Cooper acknowledged his "not all farmworkers good managers" but he insists the

number of abuses is "very low." He encourages farmers to make their workers feel at home. "It's the little things," he says, which on his farm includes telephone (a local line) and a pay phone for long distance, accepting visitors on the premises until mid-night, and making a pickup truck available if someone has to go into town for a job. As for working conditions, he adds, "we don't stand over anybody's shoulder. We've got a good training program and those workers who assume extra responsibilities get paid more."

THE WIDELY DIVERGENT circumstances of Emerson on the one hand and Boathe and Nash on the other, claim the program critics, are not accidental. Rather, says Kerry Preibisch, a University of Guelph sociologist who has interviewed more 70 workers since 2000, they manifest the very structure of the SAWP. The farm workers do not have the rights and benefits of Canada on employment, and don't receive minimum wage or overtime, don't have mechanisms through which they can eventually gain status. Assigned specific employers and living arrangements, they can

switch jobs only if their employer and their old and new bosses both approve. Although they pay into employment insurance—to the tune of \$3.4 million every year—they can't collect a penny if they lose their jobs unless they stay in the country (they can, however, collect both pension and parental leave benefits back home); those who are let

go prematurely are typically repatriated (usually at the employer's expense) within 24 hours, without a chance to apply for a new visa or job. But if they refuse to leave, they face

the plane ticket home (normally, SAWP employers cover two-thirds of travel costs) and have to find—and pay for—a place to stay. These "extra-economic coercion," as Preibisch describes them, set the stage for potential abuse because, she says, they make "workers' everyday reality dependent on the subjective good will of their employers." With more than 30 workers killed last year, none of Ontario's 100,000 agricultural workers are covered by health and safety legislation, and they don't have the right to bargain collectively. The United Food and Commercial Workers have two chan-

Workers like these: Some say their own parents are reliable, affordable labor

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was to be separated in less than a week.

Ramirez is there to talk about his options: Morgan could leave and hope that others will see his case through in his absence, or he could try to delay his return and live with a family in town. That was not only could he see a signpost in 30 rows, but a legal claim could even last with his appeal. As Morgan sifts through the plastic bag for a copy of his contract, his visa and other documents, he seems unsure which way he'll go. He knows, however, that no matter what, he won't be back next year. (Last week, he took an early flight home.)

The failure of the human effort to back Morgan up is a familiar story, says Ramirez. The government representatives, he says, are in a compromised position. On the one hand, they're supposed to protect the workers' interests; on the other, they compete with representatives of other countries to get so many placements as possible. According to Preiback, that competition is still, and Mexico currently has the edge, having increased its proportion of the SAWP workforce from 23 per cent in 1987 to 57 per cent in 2004. The Caribbean and Mexican governments rely heavily on remittances from workers' wages as a source of foreign exchange. In Mexico, it's second only to oil. In fact, recent trade imbalances explain the exponential growth of the SAWP. Caribbean and Mexican workers' livelihoods, says Preiback, "have been eroded by trade liberalization. It's not possible for manual producers, for example, to make a living."

BACK WHERE Over a five, on the other side of the border wire fence, customer vendors from America have opened up trucks full of jeans, shoes and other clothes for the workers to peruse. There's not a lot of selling going on. Perhaps the prices are too high, or most have already done their shopping in a couple of weeks, they'll be heading home for the winter. On the last day of work, says a Canadian employee also a guide, Dornon, the atmosphere is charged. The migrant workers sing upbeat and dance, some of them serving out a church service. "The rest of the place comes to a standstill as they beat out the time on the equipment," he says. "Some of us join in. It's like you're all the ground with the sheer joy and happiness of it all." However difficult their circumstances, Canadian migrant workers always have something to look forward to home.



AN UNREGULATED CAN OF WORMS

MARIA ALEMAN and Norma Ibarra were part of one thing when they signed up to pick worms in Canada this spring. Although grueling work, it wasn't as hard as they were earning in Mexico. The \$8 an hour was roughly twice what Maria pulled in as a retail assistant at a peto plant, and three times what Aleman made as a farm worker. Hired by Joseph Haupert, owner of Mississippi, Ont.-based Refractor Ltd. Inc., under a federal pilot program intended to fill low-skill vacancies in industries

Maria Aleman and Norma Ibarra are happy to have found a steady job in Canada.

such as hospitality and construction, the women and 38 other Mexicans were digging the evening after they arrived.

By the following week, things had already started to unravel. First, a number of workers objected to insecticides and the lack of water and latrines in the fields. Then Haupert, who counters that workers were deliberately producing under quota, brought in fewer than the 14 cans of worms a shift that he needs to break even, fired eight men and sent them back to Mexico. Within weeks, after disputes led to a further 38 dismissals and resignations, including the firings of Aleman and Ibarra, instead of boarding the plane, however, they and a third woman who did not wish to be interviewed moved into the migrant workers centre in Lacombe, Ont., where they have spent the

summer publicizing the plight of Canada's guest workers. (By early September, none of the original 46 was still on the job.)

The pilot project, which brought in 1,500 workers in this, its second year, resembles the seasonal agricultural workers program in many respects. But, unlike the SAWP, its implementation process is unregulated. "That opens the door to problems," says University of Guelph sociologist Kerry Preiback, pointing south of the border, where some private labour contractors extort bribes from workers in exchange for placements and block out anyone who tries to unionize. There's also a danger, Preiback says, that "employers will search the globe for the poor

est, most socially oppressed people"—those who are so desperate they'll accept any conditions.

Aleman, 33, and Maria, 35, clearly weren't desperate. And however disappointed they may be to return to their families with less money than they anticipated—the United Food and Commercial Workers have raised funds to pay their airfare home and some extra expenses—they are happy to have taken the stand. This is at least "a beginning," says Maria. "The employers don't even set it as a human beings but as things to get to work." They came here to work, she adds, "but not under these conditions."

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AISLIN'S OH, OH!

A new collection from one of Canada's premier political cartoonists

AISLIN, a.k.a. Terry Mosher, is one of Canada's most celebrated political cartoonists. At the Montreal Gazette, he has skewered our country's leaders for over 30 years, earning numerous awards and prizes, including the Order of Canada. But he has also taken aim at our general foibles and attitudes, and found targets for his wit beyond our borders in such subjects as U.S. documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, President George W. Bush, and the Iraq war.

Mosher's wit has been honored to have Mosher as the magazine's cartoon editor since 2002. Each week he commissions an Up Front cartoon from an array of talented Canadian cartoonists. His weekly contributions to The Back Page, meanwhile, are



OH OH:
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Cartoonists

the perfect visual partners for Paul Wells's observations. Last week, Mosher & Company published a collection of Mosher's work, *OH, OH!*, covering the period from the summer attacks of Sept. 11 to the recent federal election. We're proud of his association with the magazine—and proud to feature a selection from the book.

FOR MORE aishin cartoons, visit www.paulwells.ca/ohoh



FIGHT OF HIS LIFE

With a shot at professional and personal vindication, Richie Goosehead doesn't duck, writes STEVE MAICH

STANDING IN HIS modest home in Manitoba's Siskiwitaw First Nations reserve, Richie Goosehead cradles his fighting stance. Knees bent, biceps bent, feet shoulder-width apart. His head pulled in behind his curled left fist. With his right, he throws a slow-motion punch, rolling his hand so the knuckles point to the floor. "I'm going to hit him with the hardest right hand he's ever seen," he says, smiling.

Then it's how Goosehead imagines it, the knockout that might change his life for the better. In his mind, he has danced and ducked and grabbed for three rounds. And then, with his opponent thrashed, angry and tired, he sees his opponent's punches with an overhead right. "I keep telling myself, he's just a human and he's got a chin just like everybody else," he says. "I think if I can put my right hand right on the chin, I think I can put him down." He pauses and adds, "But I might be the only one who thinks that."

Yes, Goosehead is all alone in his aspirations. Everybody else thinks this 36-year-old father of seven, part-time artist and usually unaccomplished pro boxer, is going to get pulverized two nights from now, when he steps into a ring in Winnipeg with Eric Back, better known in the boxing world as "Busterbean." With a record of 67 wins and three losses, Back weighs in at a hefty 385 lb., compared to Goosehead's 278. He has knocked out 52 men in the past 10

years, not including the dozens he has paraded into unconsciousness in non-sanctioned fighting events like the "Toughman Competitions," and on Japan's K-1 kick-boxing circuit.

Nothing in Goosehead's history suggests he has a chance. His pro record is seven wins, 16 defeats and a draw. He has lost his last six fights in a row. And yet, when given the chance to box Busterbean for four rounds and US\$2,500, he stepped at it. It's the most money he's ever made boxing. The few would outside the sport, it seems a ridiculously small reward for risking one's life trading blows with a man like

Back (who will earn US\$25,000 for the encounter). But this is how thousands of boxers around the world, just like Goosehead, survive a living. They are paid to show up, put on a

good show, and take a beating for about \$200 a round on average. And while it's easy to think of these fighters as unfortunate casualties of a sport giving humans, Goosehead doesn't see it that way.

Like hundreds of anonymous sluggers who have come from nowhere to etch for themselves a small place in boxing lore—men like Chuck Wepster and Buster Douglas—Goosehead is still less than a dream of a single, shining moment in the ring. Even after all this time and all those losses, he still keeps to prove he's a fighter and not just another punching bag for hire.



With a record of seven wins, 16 losses and a draw, Goosehead (right) is given no chance

CLIMBING OUT of his mid-1980s Dodge Caravan, Goosehead looks like the kind of guy you might cross the street to avoid. Just over six feet tall, with a barrel chest, dark glasses and goatee, he has shaved his hair into a disc-cropped mohawk. His black T-shirt says "LUKE PAX... what's your excuse?" It seems like more than an idle boast.

The eldest of eight siblings, he grew up in Winnipeg's tough north end, raised by his single mom. In school he focused entirely on proving his toughness to classmates. The family moved to Edmonton when he was 12, where he poured his energy into playing hockey and into painting, a talent he discovered after being turned down by a friend. He dropped out after just one day of high school, and never learned to read or write properly. "I just knew school wasn't going to teach me anything that I was going to need to live my life," Goosehead explains. "A doctor told me once I had a kind of dyslexia, so that might've been part of why I had problems with reading. But I've never in other ways."

Goosehead dabbled in amateur boxing in his late teens, but it wasn't until around 20 that he got serious about the sport, as a means to get his spinning life back in control. In his early 20s he won his first win and, during his long recovery, ballooned to 340 lb. He spent 90 days in jail in 1991 for assaulting three men. And by the mid-1990s, he was already father to two sons. He needed to get back into shape and to make some money, and boxing fit the bill.

In January 1995, he made his professional debut—a four-round loss to a local fighter named Patrick Graham. Over the next five years, with almost no real training or experience, Goosehead took a string of lopsided beatings from far more seasoned pros, such as former Canadian Olympic silver medalist David Delisle. In need of money, he faced one rival by five after another, and he usually got burned. "In my whole career I've never had a fight I was supposed to win," he says.

Four years ago, looking for a new start, he moved back to Siskiwitaw, about an hour north of Winnipeg. There, he shares a sub-leased two-bedroom home with his girlfriend, Nadine Fortin, and their two daughters, Thelma, 4, and Tanisha, 10 months. A few times a week, he drives to a nearby junior high school to teach kids the

backs of boxing is an after-school program "to supplement the \$300 monthly welfare cheque, Goosehead does odd jobs and occasionally sells one of his paintings for a few hundred dollars. And, of course, he fights."

He insists, however, it is not a need for money that's driving him to take on Eick, but rather, a need for redemption. After nine years of failure and disappointment, he has a chance to be the kind of zombie-kid as the junior high can look up to. With a good showing against a famous fighter like Burelbach, he can finally silence all those voices that say he's nothing but a hack. "To win this would be the biggest thing in my life," he says. "It'd like to prove everybody wrong. Even people around the corner here. I know they say 'This guy's gonna get knocked out.' It's about making a name for myself. So my kids can be proud of their dad, and when I'm an old guy they can say, 'My dad was a tough guy.' And if I beat Burelbach, what a story my kids can tell, yee-haw!"

STORIES OF BRAVERY in the boxing ring can come at a grievous cost. Brad Rouse would attest to that. The Las Vegas-based heavyweight assumed a pro career of seven wins and 41 losses over his 14-year career. Like Goosehead, he fought for the money and because his options were few. But he's never really known how Rouse felt about his profession because on July 18, 2003, he collapsed in the ring in Cedar City, Utah, and died a short time later of cardiac failure. It was later revealed Rouse accepted that fight because his mother had died in Cincinnati a few days before, and he needed money to travel home for his funeral. Instead, they were landed together. "Tragedies like Brad's death are rare these days, thanks to boxing's improved medical oversight. Still, the list of boxers killed or crippled in the ring is long," as Goosehead is only too aware. He doesn't want to end up like so many of the punch-drunk former greats he sees on TV.

It's a concern worthy for his family. Nadine deals with her fear by helping Goosehead train on the heavy punching bag that hangs in the middle of their tiny living room. When he fights, she'll sit in a corner giving him water and cheering to minor extent. "Goosehead's mother can't watch him fight, though. 'It's harder for my family than it is for me,' he says. "But yeah, I worry—you have to."



Burelbach wins the fight, but by getting the distance, Goosehead scores a moral victory

He has good reason to worry. Maseia Arreola, another Wingo-piano fighter, has faced both Eick and Goosehead. He recalls when asked if the local fighter might pull off a win. "I never felt [Eick] falling hard because I always ducked it," Arreola says. "But in the third round he caught me with a jab, just a jab, and I saw a flash of white across my eyes. This guy has power. Goosehead wasn't even late a round."

The day before the fight, rumors are circulating that Goosehead will take a dive, or perhaps not even show up for the match. Promoter John Verrano confides that he has prepared another local fighter for the bout, just in case. Eick refuses to make predictions, but makes no bones about his angle. "My job is to make the crowd happy by beating people up," he explains in his Alabama drawl. "The object is to hit the other person until he goes unconscious. It's a tough game."

WHEN FIGHT NIGHT arrives, a crowd of close to 2,000 jams into the Wingo Center arena. The scene is set by the promise of violence and cheap booze. A crowd of fans in red and blue-collared shirts, surrounded by an army of police, take in the first round and sometimes bloody matches leading to the main event: Burelbach vs. The Tin Penis. Eick is red this woman was, conscious with a mix of cold rage, weary caution and politeness.

In the third round, Burelbach gleefully taps his hands while Nadine Ella ice packs. Another roar erupts from the ring and says he feels like he's been hit by a truck. "Well I'm gonna feel like I've been hit by a semi," Goosehead says with a chuckle. Nobody else seems to realize he's kidding. "My job is to make the crowd happy by beating people up," he explains in his Alabama drawl. "The object is to hit the other person until he goes unconscious. It's a tough game."

the ring escorted by close to a dozen Q-tip-wag dancers in full regalia. Burelbach follows, in his trademark stars and stripes trunks, to the country rock standard Sweet Home Alabama. Eick looks like a whale perched atop two tree trunks.

The bell rings to begin the match and Goosehead sticks to his strategy. He jabs and moves and refuses to let Eick corner him. The big man seems more glancing blows, and drives his gloves into Goosehead's ribs when they clinch near the ropes. But Goosehead wields all his flailing haymakers. The fight moves slowly and the crowd begins to bo-

IN THE EYES OF MANY, Goosehead gives as good as he gets. "I hit him with some big right hands," he says, "like I said I would."



When it's all over, Goosehead asks his girlfriend Nadine if she'll stay in his corner—the life

When the bell rings to end the round, Eick fans his opponent with a wetting glass. In the second round, Goosehead is still circling, when Eick gets frustrated. He drops his hands to his sides, daring Goosehead to engage him, but he won't take the bait. Finally, Eick takes the initiative and lands some heavy punches to his opponent's ribs and head. Still, Goosehead doesn't go down. It's the halfway mark and Goosehead is still standing, against all odds.

About a minute into the third round, Eick drops his hands again and taunts Goosehead. When the big man takes a step forward, Goosehead unleashes a heavy right hook that crashes into the side of Eick's head, sending a plume of perspiration into the air. Eick swears and nods as if to say, "Okay, good that." The bigger man again uses the upper hand and lands several punishing blows, but near the end of the round, Goosehead fires another right to the head. This time, Eick doesn't smile.

With three minutes to go, Eick storms from his corner to finish off his opponent. He lands two hard body blows, and bright red veins begin to appear across Goosehead's ribs. Eick bowls him into the ropes, Goosehead loses his footing and goes down, quickly scrambling back up. Eick unleashes wild punches heedlessly over a dithering Goosehead, but he lands several shorter punches. And then, another right hand from Goosehead brings a spontaneous yell from the crowd. As the final seconds tick away, Eick pounds his gloves into Goosehead's block-

ing arms. And then one more right from Goosehead lands solidly on Eick's jaw. The crowd roars. The bell rings. It's over.

Afterward, Eick complains bitterly that Goosehead refused to fight him, "But give him credit, he fought smart," he says. On the scorecards, two out of three judges rule the bout in favor of Eick. One scores it a draw. Burelbach is awarded his ditch career victory, and yet Goosehead is still smiling. He returns to his corner, gets down on one knee, and asks Nadine if she will marry him. With tears in her eyes, she says yes.

MORE THAN 40 minutes later, the crowd has spilled out of the arena into the parking lot, in search of one more drink before last call. The band has played up and gone home. For Goosehead is still standing in the audience in his trunks, surrounded by friends and family, laughing, hugging and shaking hands. The doctors said he wouldn't survive a round. They were wrong. But he'd given a name and take a dive. But in the eyes of many, including one judge at ringside, he gave as good as he got. He proved them all wrong. "I hit him with some big right hands, but like I said I would," Goosehead says laughing. Standing with his new fiancée, Goosehead says quietly, "This is pretty much the best day of my life."

The record will show this was the 17th loss in an unremarkable career. And yet somehow, standing in the fading glow of the ring lights, as the frustrated crowd looks on in awe, Goosehead makes like the boxer, and the man, he always wanted to be. ■

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Football



THE RISE OF THE EAST

Two quick turnarounds have given the CFL new life, JAMES DEACON writes

IN THE FREEWHEELING, high-scoring Canadian Football League, games are often decided in the last seconds. The Toronto Argonauts' victory over the Saskatchewan Roughriders last week was no exception. Like it was no big deal.

As on the field, major turnarounds can happen quickly in CFL. In 2003, the Argonauts, once the model franchise, had struggled under owner Michael Petrak and a revolving-door front office. Meanwhile, the Argos' new owners—local businessman Howard Solowick and David Gosselin—bought in a year ago and hired qualified people to run the team. Down the road in Hamilton, another owner-businessman, Bob Young, took over the coachless Tiger-Cats last year. Sensible people thought it was crazy buying into the sinkhole CFL team, but less than a full season later, the

special teams played well, and an offence worked to the game plan and got the job done. "Big up side. Like it was no big deal."

As on the field, major turnarounds can happen quickly in CFL. In 2003, the Argonauts, once the model franchise, had struggled under owner Michael Petrak and a revolving-door front office. Meanwhile, the Argos' new owners—local businessman Howard Solowick and David Gosselin—bought in a year ago and hired qualified people to run the team. Down the road in Hamilton, another owner-businessman, Bob Young, took over the coachless Tiger-Cats last year. Sensible people thought it was crazy buying into the sinkhole CFL team, but less than a full season later, the

The Argos' victory over the Roughriders showed the team's changing fortunes.

new owners are getting results. The Argos are stronger on the field and have increased per game attendance by 61 per cent over last season. The Titans, a successful 1-17 in 2003, are co-

roning for a playoff spot and play before crowds at Ivor Wynne Stadium that are a whopping 58 per cent bigger than a year ago. Crazy? Maybe not. "Guns would have been increasing attendance by 25 per cent," says Young. "So we are way above where we expected to be at this stage."

There's hope for the CFL. The deadbeat Eastern Conference teams had long propounded the league's squalor. In particular, the Argos' lousy image in the country's largest media market affected everything

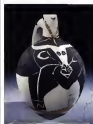
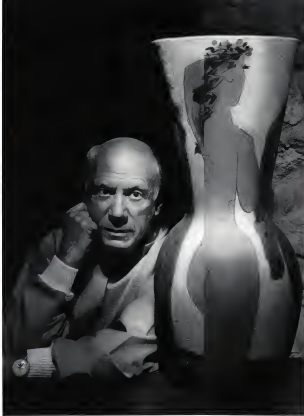


PICASSO, MASTER POTTER

His works in clay are finally getting respect

SO COLOSSAL is Pablo Picasso's legacy of painting that other aspects of his creativity have tended to get short shrift. Especially his ceramics. The Spanish-born artist produced some 4,500 clay pieces during the five decades he worked in the medium. But because most of that output—about 90 per cent—is privately owned, scholars haven't paid serious attention to his vases, jugs, plates and other works. Now, however, a major exhibition, *Picasso and Ceramics*, is shedding light on that part of the artist's creation. Jointly organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (where it was on view from May through August) and Toronto's Gardiner Museum of Canadian Art in partnership with the University of Toronto Art Centre, the show continues at the latter venue until Jan. 23, after which it travels to the Musée Picasso in Antibes, France.

In an essay included in the lavish book accompanying the exhibition, co-curator Paul Bouasse, curator at the Musée national des beaux-arts, notes that Picasso dabbled



Works like this 1957 dish, (top) a jug from the same year and (opposite left) a piece from the early '50s reveal a cornucopia of brilliance; above is a 1954 Yusef Khatib portrait

in ceramics as a child. And when the artist moved to Paris in 1904, at the age of 33, Basque friend Pablo Durrio let Picasso work in his pottery studio. Picasso, who had already begun studying the history of ceramics, created his own clay works until the late 1930s, but then came to have abandoned the medium until 1946. That year, he made a visit to the southern French town of Vallauris, a traditional pottery centre, and later joined a pottery workshop there that would be one focal point of his creative life for the next 15 years.

Until recently, art historians and curators dismissed Picasso's ceramic work as an insignificant sideline. All that's changing thanks to exhibitions like this one. "It is our belief not only that Picasso made brilliant use of clay as a medium, but also that his output in this area is essentially that of a ceramicist," Bouasse writes in the introduction to *Picasso and Ceramics*. "Indeed, we have no hesitation in affirming that Pablo Picasso was one of the most important ceramists of the 20th century."

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MACLEAN'S

ROGERS
The World's Best

DYING TO HELP

Doctors Without Borders volunteers risk their lives to battle disease and despair in the world's worst places

BORN IN THE BLOODY Nigerian civil war of the early 1970s, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) has become the most famous—and contentious—medical relief group in the world. The recipient of the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize, MSF is denounced by some in the international aid community for its political outposts, and praised by others for the same reason. In *Hope in Hell*, Canadian journalist Don Bartlett profiles it and its volunteers and—in a tone of growing danger for aid workers—details their worst efforts and deaths in the field. An excerpt:

Outside Kandahar a tattered white flag emblazoned with the red and black Médecins Sans Frontières logo marks the entrance to the basic health unit at Zhar. Dashed camp for internally displaced people (IDPs). About 40,000 opium-addicted Afghans live in the tents and mud-brick huts of Zhar Dahr, which means “yellow desert” in Pashto. On this day in August 2003, the temperature has 11°C. (In winter, it can plummet below zero.) Shade offers some relief, but even indoors it's impossible to escape the dust that squirts into your eyes, nose and mouth.



Bochler thanks the Agency sponsored her experience on a violent Kandahar native rescue

this morning. “It’s more than that,” answered colleague Herman del Valle, the resident vet. “It’s a humanitarian emergency.”

Bochler, a Canadian who looks younger than her 30 years, is just four weeks in to her first mission, but she’s no stranger to delivering health care in difficult places. After graduating with her nursing degree, she worked on a native reserve in northern Ontario, then in a small rural hospital near the British Columbia-Alaska border, and most recently on a reserve in Manitoba with an university reputation.

Although MSF looks for volunteers who have worked in developing countries, it appreciates this kind of Canadian experience, too. “It’s isolated and you’re dealing without having support services and equipment,” Bochler says. “Patients may have to be flown out, so there’s a long delay to care. You have to learn how to manage stress, solve problems. I think they liked me for Afghanistan because I was from a violent reserve, so I was accurate.”

Adjusting her headscarf, Bochler looks to another camp where dozens of MSF medical staff have spent the day isolat-



ing 1,200 people for diphtheria. It’s a disease that neither Bochler nor Dutch doctor Herman van Gijzel had seen before—vaccinations have eradicated it from Western countries. There have been about 50 cases in the camp in the past month, however, and MSF is relying on Afghan doctors and nurses, who have experience diagnosing and treating it. The disease can produce a toxin that’s fatal in about 30 per cent of cases.

A baseline boy approaches the car, his face covered in sores. “It looks like emphysema,” Bochler says, “which is very common back home, especially in First Nations communities.” Here, she explains, the only remedy she’s seen is geriatric violet, which is

effective in advanced cases. “When you see it to that degree at home you’d always put them on antibiotics.” Delivering health care in Afghanistan means not only having the right drugs but convincing a sometimes reluctant population to use them. Afghan doctor Syed Malik Shah says that during the diphtheria vaccinations camp patients refused the needle. “There are rumours that the vaccine causes infertility.” Another case, though, Afghan have proven fond of injections, which most believe are superior to oral medication—especially when pills, could end up useless because they all look the same. The rule of thumb when it comes to tablets, says van Gijzel, is “the

bandwidth of thousands of Afghan families are displaced within their own country.

“bigger the better, and the redder the better.”

Following the U.S.-led attack on the Taliban that began in October 2001, hundreds of thousands of Afghans scattered, some to other parts of the country, others to neighboring Iran and Pakistan. While the rights of refugees are enshrined in international law, internally displaced people—who may number 15 million worldwide—often live in grey areas. They are, strictly speaking, the responsibility of their own governments. But whether refugees or IDPs, the Afghan families in these camps face the same med-

ical conditions that curries from cramped conditions, exposure to a harsh climate, inadequate water and sanitation, and despair.

In several of these camps, and in many others around the world, MSF provides basic health care for months or years and intervenes in state emergencies, such as outbreaks of disease. A refugee camp provides ideal conditions for all manner of disease. One of the most rampant is measles, which kills almost a million people each year in developing countries, most of them children. In an overcrowded refugee camp, where people may already be weakened by inadequate nutrition, measles outbreaks can be swift and deadly. Measles vaccination

a priority No. 1 when setting up shop in a refugee camp, and MSF tries to make sure that all the children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years are immunized.

The camp's most serious diphtheria patients are sent on a one-hour drive to a booming Land Cruiser to Mir Wasi Hospital in Kandahar. Because of limited space there, many patients are abandoned outside in tents, where small electric fans are set cranked by the stifling heat. The fact that diphtheria patients are here at all is some thing MSF had to fight for, says Roehrer. When the first reports of diphtheria came in from the camp, the Afghan ministry of public health and the WHO asked MSF to stop referring patients to Kandahar. "They said it was putting the city at risk for diphtheria. They said they'd build a little hospital at the camp. Well, in theory, that's wonderful. But if there's an emergency, like an infectious disease, they're an hour away from Mir Wasi. If an infectious disease, they'll die."

Besides, the situation used to treat diphtheria can't be given in extreme heat—the temperature must be below 55°F, and at Zhane Dade the mercury can reach 128. "At least at the hospital, we have fans and water coolers," Roehrer says. So MSF did what it usually does in these situations: it refused to work on terms it found unacceptable. "We said to the WHO and the ministry, unless you are a signifier what we're doing in the city, we are not going to support your building a little hospital in the camp, and we said if they didn't meet certain criteria we wouldn't send our patients there. That made us very unpopular. However, after we put that all in writing and submitted it, they changed their mind." At a stroke, Roehrer almost to being surprised that MSF won the argument. "I'm still trying to get my head around the fact that if we don't agree with something here, we don't do it."

THERE'S STILL a Taliban presence in and around Kandahar, says Mariam Oshkani, who is on the inadequate shade a dozen yards from the camp's main building. The 30-year-old Swede is on his third mission with MSF and, as the project coordinator, it's his job to keep a tight grip on security. The UN and coalition forces are supposed to advise NGOs about any potential dangers, but they don't always keep pace with the word on the street, Oshkani says. "We also send the local staff to the houses to talk to the men and women."



Local MSF personnel provide much of the front-line care for child and sick children

like this. "Conditions keep the MSF team under virtual house arrest. Many times we are locked to the homes of national staff, but we can't go because they live on narrow streets and we can't park the cars there," says van Gape. "We are not allowed to walk around the streets—we're always getting into the car inside our compound and getting out in the compound of another NGO. You really don't quite 'look up' for instructions. The reply: 'All the designer. The gunmen pumped 20 bullets into a Murgan. (He said a cruel owner, the mullah who ordered the execution was a verified leg provided by the Red Cross.)"

But it was in the northwestern province of Badkha, usually one of the safer places in Afghanistan, that MSF's luck ran out on June 2, 2004. A Land Cruiser carrying five staff was ambushed by gunmen, believed to be Taliban fighters. Whether words were exchanged or warning was given, no one is ever likely to know, as the team never checked in by radio after setting off around 3 p.m. Later that afternoon the car was discovered—it had been shredded by gunfire, and shrapnel indicated a grenade had exploded. It was a heinous murder of five unarmed aid workers: Belgian project coordinator Hilde de Boer, Dutch logistician Willem Baert, Norwegian donor Taji Tynnes, their Afghan translator Fathi Ahmad and their driver Usamah. Just weeks before the shooting, while de Boer was taking a break in Italy, she told a friend, "I am exhausted, physically and emotionally." The friend asked why she was going back. "Because I have to," the 30-year-old replied. "It's what makes me happy."

On July 28, MSF pulled all of its teams out of Afghanistan, citing insecurity and dissatisfaction with the investigation surrounding the killing of its staff. They had been working in the country for 24 years. ■

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LETTER TO LEONARD

An epistle to Canada's patriarch of cool as he turns 70 and unveils a new album



DEAR LEONARD,

So how did you enjoy turning 70? I noticed that your birthday, Sept. 23, was the eve of the autumn equinox. It was an unusually warm night in Toronto. As the tail end of summer slipped away, I tilted down not but that we're having a tribute in your honour—as you know, these events were everywhere all over the world, in towns like Edmonton, Copenhagen and some place in Australia called Toowoomba. We were a large crowd packed

into a small room. The faithful included a woman who chose your birthday, and claims to have shared your bed many years ago in Greece. A sweet old lady who drove up from Niagara Falls looked a little lost. She said, "I thought there would be poetry readings." Instead, a band played the album *I'm Your Man*, with a different singer stepping up to tackle each cut. One after the other, like without notice attempting to draw the crowd from its orbit, they tried to do you justice. Most tried too hard. But a young chanteuse called Lily Frost covered one of your early songs, *Hey, There's No Way to Say Goodbye*. She was almost cooler than thou, Leonard. Inexorable in Chinese silk, her dark hair in a retro swirl, she had a strong voice. My Julie London, and on the tempo of the lyrics in half, making young Leonard sound like old Leonard. You would have liked her.

During our first interview, for the release of *The Future* in 1992, I'll always remember you telling me there's no rhyme for orange: "Some people say 'love' rhymes, but that's not right." It so happens I dropped to find you said it to me, but I forgive you. Doing media is a promiscuous business. We met again for the release of *On New Songs* in 2000, as in your sweltering house in Montreal during an August heat wave. Driving down from a lake, I'd brought napkins from a roadside stall, which you received with reverence. Later I visited your home in Los Angeles, where you served me lentil soup and countless tiny glasses of red wine. And with your lovely partner, Anja Silen, you introduced me to an Irish drinking song about a guy who gave away his wife.

When I asked if you'd do an interview

for your new album, *Dear Heather* (out on Oct. 26), you suggested we get together and talk off the record about doing interviews. Was this a new approach to the art of journalism? I drove down to your house in Montreal, with more napkins, which you swore were the finest you'd ever laid eyes on. We sat at a table by an open window as people walked by on the sidewalk. Over wine and Indian tobacco, you told me you didn't want to promote *Dear Heather*. You said it's unlike anything you've done, it speaks for itself, and that there's nothing more to add.

HUSHED and elegiac, your new CD finds you rattling from the tower of song to kneel at the altar of poetry

You also confessed that, years after you'd position yourselves in life, you're enjoying life more than ever. To go on about this in a world ravaged by unspeakable misery just didn't sit well with you. Journalism like me notwithstanding, you're about faith and the war, and the business of your *Shades* turning 70. And they'll all, "What's Heather?"

You'll recall that I tried to change your mind. I think the Canada card, reminding you that, with Trudeau gone, you're the last cool international icon among your generation of Canadians—someone we'll forever associate with a Canada when everything seemed possible, when a belated intellectual could be prime minister and a Montreal poet could be world famous. By

"doing publicity," you wouldn't just be promoting a record, you'd be breathing a Zen glow of warmth and wisdom into the faint ember of this thing called Canadian culture. Or something like that.

Anyway, it was almost all over. But as the weeks passed, you kept your resolve to decline interviews. Hence this letter. If you won't talk about *Dear Heather*, I will.

You're right, it is a departure, one that finds you rattling from the tower of song to kneel at the altar of poetry. Even more hushed and radiative than *Ten New Songs*, it's an elegiac album, one that shows you reconnecting with your poetic roots. The opening track, *Go No More A-Roving*, is a Byron poem set to music—a lover's farewell to wandering through the moonlit night because "the heart must pause to breathe / And love itself have rest." It's dedicated to your ailing mother, Irving Layton—one of a Montreal succession of poets you've honoured on the album. To a Teacher (a dedication to A.M. Klein (1909-1972), a teacher plucked from your own 1961 book, *The Spleen of the Earth*). And with Villanelle for Our Time, you recite some inspirational verse penned by your former McGill professor FR Scott—"From hence nourishing of the heart... we rise to play a greater part."

If you were being interviewed—but you're not—drawing that a journalist would pounce on a Brother of a very, self-deprecating old. If you don't mind, I'll spare it in full rather than it would be like retelling a joke and counting the punchline.

*Because of a few songs
Wherein I spoke of their mystery,
When there have been
Exceptionally kind
to my old age
They make a secret place
In their busy lives
And they take me there.
They become naked
In their different ways
and they say,*



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Music | >

"Look at me, Leonard! Look at me one last time." Then they bend over the bed and cover me up. Like a baby that is chattering. Nothing is quite so tender as the ironic inflexion of old age. Your words are cradled in the spare plucking of a thumb piano, and washed in Aquino's liquid vocals—a major trait that soars into the foreground with their own chorus, "Look at me, Leonard!" It sounds like an angelic choir of every girl you've ever loved. Your generosity here is palpable. The two women on the album—Aquino's Theresa and actress Robinson (your collaborator on *Tim No Sings*)—scream with you and backup singers in the '80s. Now they work with you side by side, sharing lead vocals and some surprising credits.

Your own voice on the album is like heavy machinery, with a villainous whisper of vibrato. With every second you seem to lower your critic's vocal purity, as if engaged in some kind of some parking of the depths.



Dear Heather to be released on Oct. 20 by Sony Music Canada, is Cohen's 13th album. The CD is Cohen at his finest. By Colin Hanks

I know you work on a computer screen, but in your tender one can feel the weight of words on paper, what you like to call the "blackboard pages." *Dear Heather* is full of letters, including one called *The Letter*, a melancholy tale of unrequited correspondence that finds its mark years after it's sent—"you press them to your lips / My pages of moments." Then there's the title song, a minimalist plea to the enigmatic Heather: You ask her to walk by you again, her "legs all white from the winter." And you repeat the same five lines over and over, until you start to get out of the words... letter by letter.

In the slow waltz of *Underneath*, riding the gentle swell of a saxophone, you sing of "a different world / And I hear the change / Of a budding bow." And in the hypnotic *There For You*, you unwind a sliver of better romance: "Ever get up in the fall / never / I was never not / I was always you." There's enough love in the last love on *Dear Heather* that it makes me wonder if it's a breakup album. But in a sense, they're all breakup albums,

aren't they? Whether you take us to the end of love, or the end of time, you like to dwell on what you once called "the crack in everything." That's how the light gets in. "Blessed and blessed" sound as the top.

Speaking of which, you deserve one more hit, *On That Day*, directly to Sept. 18—"the day they would New York." You acknowledge that "Some people say / It's what we deserve / For ties against / For cities in the world." Our women unravel / Our days and our gold." Then you offer a non-partisan drug, worthy of Trudeau, saying "I wouldn't know / I'm just holding the fort." There's a sense of complicity in this modern sequel, as you freeze the lines with the simple twang of a Jew's harp. I'm reminded of your 1992 anthem *Democracy*—again, you spelled out a northern continent of the hearty "I'm neither left or right / I'm just staying home tonight / I'm just lost in that hapless little screen."

Can't say I like you. *Dear Heather* sounds like the older, wiser muse of a man who's given up a-rising. Yet this is your most courageous album, riddled with playful deconstruction. In the languid meditation of *Morning Glory*, words like "company" and "company" drift, disembodied, through pools of beehive jazz. But you also offer a couple of baroque folk songs, *Nightgale* and *The Fair*—both an art that would be traditional if it had to believe you wrote them.

In case you haven't noticed by now, Leonard, this is not a review, it's a fan letter. And why not? You're 70, and you're still out there, living up to your name, to Layton and Klein and Starr. You become more blithely serene to the mainstream with each passing year. Yet you stay in the game. You're preparing a new collection of poetry, *Land of Language*. Your music still makes its way into the world (When We Were One of your songs to deliver the eulogy at the end of this new film, *Land of Plenty*) / I know you're strangely immune to celebrity, you spent years as a monk on Mount Baldy in California. Then, in 1999, you came down from the mountain, announcing you were "back on Boogie Street." Let's say you've been rediscovering Montreal. You say you're not aware of the number of times you've sat at your desk and decided the garden in the park outside your window. As for the songs, you get by with fewer and fewer Jewish melodies, and feel no need to explain them.

There it is, I want to know *Who's Heather?* ☐

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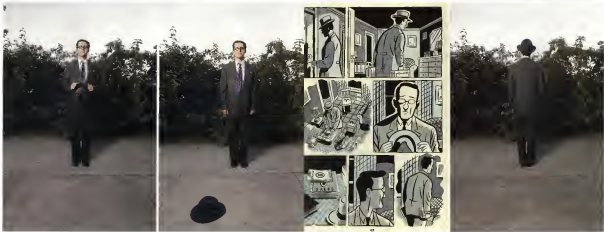
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IT'S THE MORNING of the day when Adrian Tomine will become the first graphic novelist to give a reading in the 30-year history of Toronto's Harbourfront Reading Series. The Berkeley, Calif., cartoonist is cognizant of the honour, but he's a little worried about putting on a good show. "I've always said no to readings before," he admits. "I've seen cartoonists try, and it always runs out like children's hour at the library. You hold a blown-up panel and say 'Here, the man is walking down the street, now he says this, and then he says that.'"

But Tomine has accepted this situation because he believes his medium is at a tipping point. A number of fiction have coalesced to make book-length comics for grown-ups the hottest new thing on the North American literary scene. Right now, that is. If graphic novels are going to maintain this new-found respectability—and the promise

DRAWN FROM LIFE

Graphic novels are forcing their way into the literary mainstream, and Canadian artists are leading the charge

of making a decent living, that it holds out for artists—the genre's aim will have to do their part to keep it in the public eye.

Half the artists are Canadians, according to Chris Oliveros, owner of Montreal-based Devlin & Quarterly, which publishes a number of them. One of two controversial comics powerhouses, his firm is also home to Tomine, along with everyone who isn't with D&Q publishes with Seattle-based Fantagraphics. Oliveros and D&Q-published Canadian

like Seth (born Gregory Giliard) and Chester Brown, two of the biggest names in the business, share Tomine's belief. And his cartoonists. Graphic novels have had other reasons in the past before slipping back into cult status.

In the 1960s, underground comics artists like R. Crumb inspired a brief glimmer in popularity that died with the counterculture. Nearly two decades ago, Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, a brilliant, book-length treatment of the Holocaust, with the Nazis as cats and the

Jews as mice, looked like the breakthrough book. Praised by literary critics and sold in bookstores as well as comic shops, *Maus* turned out to be a one-off event. There was "nothing to follow," in content or artistic achievement, according to Oliveros. And, fast, suggests, is the key difference between past and present: a critical mass of artistically pleasing, intelligently engaging material now filling the pipeline.

The new ground-breaking work, says

Oliveros, was Brown's *Look! Hear!* (2000). "That let bookstores know they could have a comics section and sell to an older readership. Then the snowball kept rolling with Seth's *Cyde Rex* Book 1 and *Samrat, Jinnah and Akbar* like if that had stood alone, we'd be in the same boat as after *Maus*." And those words are appearing in a culture open to them. The line between childhood and adulthood, once so solid that creating a recent abandoning childish forms as well as

After he learned to draw superheroes, Seth found he was no longer interested in them.

control, has been blurring for some time. As long as they are mature in execution and theme, and packaged with D&Q's lavish production values, graphic novels are no longer dismissed simply because they are comics. Equally important, as Seth notes, is that "our culture is extremely rural right now," especially the generation strained to the Internet's streams of images, "and readers come to us already sophisticated."

The artists themselves are pleased to think the world is finally catching up with them, at least in terms of being image-conscious. Like the many prose writers who cannot remember a time when they weren't scribbling, the cartoonists have been drawing since they became fixated on superheroes as kids. "I loved every kind of comic—



I got into this because I thought drawing was fun," says 44-year-old Brown. "I still do, sometimes," he adds with a laugh, alluding to the hard slog of inking 241, six-panel comic book pages. "Yeah, I grew up wanting to draw Spider-Man or whatever," says Seth, 42. "But then, after long training and finally being capable of doing it, I found I'd lost interest in the subject matter" (That would have been around the same time, age 26 or so, that he started calling himself "Seth" "just a pretentious art name for an '80s punk, though the Willard and Egyptian reference also appealed to me").

Brown underwent the same disappointing epiphany about the same time, and the two artists responded in a similar fashion. They didn't abandon comics, but began crafting small series while keeping their day jobs to pay the bills. None of their work was aimed at mainstream audiences—Brown's *Twelve Year* was a raucous '80s farce about pygmies, zombies and Ronald Reagan, but

Michael Brown likes best about cartooning, its "silence and stillness." It is on display in that

Brown approached one project with scholarly seriousness. *My Mom Was a Holocauster*, a six-page 1999 strip drawn from his own family history, took a lot of research. "I thought, I want to do this again, take a complicated subject and boil it down. Since comics work best with a narrative, I looked about for an historical subject and then I read Maggie Sawyer's *Rail* biography."

The result, after five years of effort, is extraordinary. Brown makes no bones about

'OUR CULTURE
is extremely visual right
now," Seth says, "and
readers come to us
already sophisticated"

whose side he's on (the oppressed Meris'), but he leaves the eternal questions about Neil himself—readman or missionary, master or partner—to readers' judgment. The illustrations are two-eyed (black on cream-coloured paper) and coolly realistic, with some pardonable exaggeration, like Sir John A. Macdonald's overabundance of nose. Brown consciously modelled the art on Harold Gray's black-and-white *Little Orphan Annie*, but it's also strongly reminiscent of Tex's crusty Hergé. The spare dialogue is weakness to some critics. (Unsurprisingly, writing us gave him novels—the work of primarily visual artists—generally comes in for more criticism than the illustrations.) But here the words work flawlessly with the exact atmospherics and transient settings. It's no wonder to hear Brown say that what he'd like to do is cartooning in his "silence and stillness." The U.S.-based book trade journal *Publishers Weekly*, despite knowing so little about the subject as to call the Meris leader "a fictional Canadian

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Books | >



revolutionary," declared Riel's attorney, not under the best graphic novel ever.

Chloe's first, published in April, has to be another one. There is far more overt irony in Seth's work, from the column-shades of blue and black on covers to the seemingly banal subject matter. The artist used to work by a Toronto storefront office of his own name, going in at portraits of his own men he took to be the owners. In Seth's version they're bourgeois, Abraham, the older, is featured in the first half of the book, set in 1997. That means 78 pages of an old man pottering around his home and domestic dog, shop, reminiscing about his life, times and family. The second part sends brother Simon on an increasingly embarrassing 1957 sales trip.

Put like that the book sounds horrible. Instead, it's astonishingly seductive. The expertly drawn details of Abraham's life are hypnosis: everything from the buildings and home furnishings from the 1940s and

1960s to the scenes of contemporary when angst gets. Seth's Abraham looks back

'50s, making his wall calendar, made on 1978, seem wistfully futuristic. The book slowly becomes a meditation on nostalgia; a central theme for both, who does like a Guy and David series—and even more. Late in life, Abraham becomes, as Simon was even in 1957 of having, failed to leave a mark on the world, or to have found a place in it. Despite conveying its meaning as much by pictures, including many silent panels, as by words, the overall effect of the unending

and there's a provision book in literary.

Obviously it's right, then, about the quality of work on offer. Seth's graphic novels take a permanent place beside other literary genres in North America, as they always have in Europe and Japan. Most signs are positive. Media attention is constant and intense good. *Loose Leaf* is its third printing. The success of volumes like Seth and Brown, and of *Loose Leaf* itself, has inspired younger artists. Riel, 30, says, "always had a half affinity about writing for *Loose Leaf*," which was founded when he was 15. And Riel, whose subtle drawings of contemporary urban scenes brought a huge profile to his Toronto reading, is a role model for even younger artists. For the past 18 months, notes Olsson, he's been able to get his better work into bookstores, even if some shops stick them in the self section. If graphic novels are still there in two years, when *Chloe's First Book 2* is expected, it may mean that their time has finally come.

IN LOUIS RIEL,
Brown's writing works
flawlessly with the muted
atmospherics and
minimalist settings

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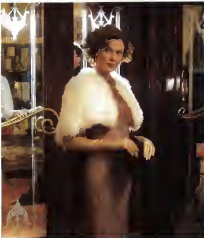
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BACKTALK

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Being Julla, being Bening, being the mother of Beatty's babies

With knowing smile and mischief in her eyes, she's made a career of selective intrigue—as the scheming widow in *Malice*, the boy-crazed artist in *The Grifters*, the adulterous wife in *Amadeus*. But one of *Annette Bening's* most impressive roles has been demonstrating Hollywood rage: *Warren Beatty*—a first that eluded the likes of *Jane Fonda*, *Diane Keaton*, *Isabelle Adjani* and *Madonna*. As mother to Beatty's four children, aged 4 to 13, Bening, 46, has scaled down her acting career. But

she couldn't resist *Being Julla*. In this period comedy directed by Hungary's Oliver Stone and produced by Kennedy's Robert Lantos, she plays a Kentucky star of the English stage who beds a younger man to evade her hazy midlife angst. Bening, however, claims she doesn't suffer from the same insecurity. Her husband, she adds, is "incredibly supportive"—he thought this was one of the best things he'd done. "Early Oscar buzz may prove him right."

MIKE D. JOHNSON

"Johns had to be a writer's director. And we thought Annette was a spectacular actor and just the right age," Lantos

BUZZ LIST

BEING JULLA (PG-13) *Being Julla* is a period comedy directed by Hungary's Oliver Stone and produced by Kennedy's Robert Lantos. She plays a Kentucky star of the English stage who beds a younger man to evade her hazy midlife angst. Bening, however, claims she doesn't suffer from the same insecurity. Her husband, she adds, is "incredibly supportive"—he thought this was one of the best things he'd done. "Early Oscar buzz may prove him right."

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WHO DID YOU SAY YOU WERE?

The PM's off to raise Canada's profile abroad. He's got his work cut out.

ON OCT. 8, PAUL MARTIN will begin a visit to Russia, Hungary and France. Count on this: In his absence, some opposition MP will accuse the Prime Minister of "floating away from problems" by "jet-setting around the world."

The critics, for once, will have it wrong. Any Canadian leader who leaves Canada is not running away from problems but toward them. The biggest of those problems is that the world is losing the habit of taking Canada seriously. This is only fair: Canada has lost

the habit of taking the world seriously.

If you ask foreign leaders about Canada, as I just did during two weeks in Europe, you get the sort of dumfounded, vaguely hostile response you would get if you asked about a henchman who doesn't write often. On trade, on cultural politics, on the big debates about the future of a world that's lately grown nastier than anyone expected, our foreign partners have a hunch—again, rather vague—that Canada is probably a friend, sort of, but that it does not bring enough guns, money or attention spend to the table to be much help.

I met one Canadian diplomat who was busy five years ago shipping around the idea of a "Museum of Identities," an international club for countries that formally divide the power of government between national and regional levels, as Canada and Germany do but France doesn't. In the end the forum was abandoned and it's proved quite useful. But getting anyone else to play was a tough slog, this guy said, because the almost universal reaction was: "Forum of Identities? Good idea. Will it last any longer than the last five good ideas we heard from Canada that shranked up and blew away because your government lost interest?"

Globalization are dangerous, but here's one anyway. Our country is seen—when it is even noticed—as a "nice bunch of guys," to borrow Bob Noy's famous comment about Sun Gao's many personalities. Sometimes we're all too much above our military weight, as Jean Chretien was in



Algeria after a few months after 9/11. Sometimes we're all about peace and love. We just so missy do it's we even as politicians to be of much use to any of them.

Canada's steadily shrinking weight in the world is one of many, many problems Paul Martin promised to address when he became Liberal leader. Early performance suggests he might not be the ideal guy to ease the nation of its that include a mighty common span and a fondness for the sound of its own voice. But the job cannot wait for another guy, so here we come advent in place of Martin.

First, Martin would do well to recognize that as many ways it's coming from a deficit—Canada has a lot less links to the world than it had a few years ago. Here's just one example: The Canadian Forces soldiers and their families who used to stand guard in Germany's Black Forest aren't there any more. The German air force, meanwhile, is moving out of Goose Bay, Nfld. Those lost

connections to Europe's biggest economic power should be replaced.

Martin got around to Christening the Team Canada trade missions to Asia and elsewhere. Team Canada may have underperformed as a trade-promotion tool, but at least it got a big chunk of Canada's political and business elite to think outside the Canadian box. So far, Martin has replaced the Team Canada model with nothing much. And he's dropped the wings of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, who does not sleep in coach but whose state visits to South America and Germany in 2001, and northern Europe in 2002 were notably valuable for securing our distant neighbors that Canada is also a land of art, literature and science. Martin grounded her as the first unceremonious headline. I think that was a mistake, but at least it was a decision. Now he must find a cheaper way to do cultural diplomacy better if there is one.

Martin must also realize he will not get chosen to home for expending energy abroad. One of the most consistent reactions I get in Europe was surprise that a Canadian journalist had come to visit, because Canadian journalism is moribund. Our news and op-edists are at home in every country, but our news organizations have developed a monumental lack of curiosity about the world. So Martin will have to do foreign policy because it's necessary, not because it's politically profitable.

Why is it necessary? So many reasons are obvious. Here's one that isn't: what does the Parti Québécois mean when it proclaims Quebec as a "real country"? For one thing, it means a country whose government was made in the world that faces groups and hospital waiting lines. Mayors can worry about plugging it as a national government's job to face the world. If the government in Ottawa can't be bothered, a government in Quebec City will fill the vacuum. ☐

In comment: backpage@mclean.ca
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